

White House denies summit report

JUPITER, Florida (R) — The White House denied a report on Wednesday that President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would hold a summit meeting in Germany in June. "No summit has been scheduled," said Deputy White House Press Secretary Stephen Hart. "We would like to have a summit some time in the first half of the year," said Mr. Hart, who stressed that no date had been set. Mr. Hart was travelling with Mr. Bush, who was wrapping up a four-day holiday in Florida before returning to Washington late Wednesday. Earlier Wednesday, the German newspaper Bild reported that Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev would meet in Berlin in mid-June. Bild said the two men would hold a separate meeting during a gathering of heads of government from the 34 member states of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Bild said the CSCE leaders would meet on June 17-20. Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev had been scheduled to meet in Moscow last February but the meeting was delayed because of the Gulf war and problems with finishing a treaty on the reduction of strategic arms.



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Brotherhood refuses to meet U.S. team

AMMAN (R) — Muslim Brotherhood deputies said Wednesday they had rejected an offer to meet a U.S. congressional team because of U.S. policies towards the Arab and Muslim World. The 22-member Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the Lower House of Parliament said in a statement such a meeting would serve no purpose. "We hope that the United States realises that through its aggressive policies it is entering a bitter conflict with our nation in which it will be the end loser," the statement said. The group said the American embassy had made a request for a meeting on behalf of Lee Aspin, head of Congress's Military Services Commission, and a team visiting Jordan. The statement accused Washington and its Gulf war allies of smashing Iraq's infrastructure and denouncing the U.S. occupation of a slice of southern Iraq. U.S. support for Israel and anti-Jordan U.S. statements during the Gulf war.

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U.N. endorses ceasefire resolution

Iraq's military potential to be stripped, part of oil revenues to be used for reparations, border with Kuwait to be guaranteed

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council approved a Gulf ceasefire resolution Wednesday ordering Iraq to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction, impounding part of its oil revenues to pay reparations and paving the way for the withdrawal of U.S. occupation troops.

The U.S.-initiated draft was endorsed by a vote of 12 in favour of one against, with Cuba casting the lone negative vote. There were two abstentions, by Yemen and Ecuador.

Cuba and Yemen opposed or abstained on many of the 13 previous resolutions adopted by the council following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August, including a decision last November authorising war against Iraq.

The 3,900-word resolution, the longest and most detailed in council history, also maintains sanctions against Iraq's imports until further notice, except for food and other essential items, and guarantees a 1963 border between Iraq and Kuwait that Baghdad still disputes.

Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari said the Security Council proposal reached too far.

"The Security Council has never before imposed borders that were not finalised," he said. "It is an infringement upon the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq."

The resolution calls on Iraq and Kuwait to respect their mutual border as agreed upon in a 1963 treaty signed by both sides. But Mr. Anbari said the treaty was never ratified by the Iraqi parliament.

Mr. Anbari also said Iraq should not be singled out for arms reductions in the tense region.

He added that Iraq had suffered greatly during the Gulf war because its opponents in the allied coalition went beyond their U.N. mandate to free Kuwait.

"Was returning Iraq to a 'pre-industrial state' one of the objectives of the resolution?" he said, referring to the recent United Nations report on the effects of war on Iraq.

He said Iraq reserved the right to ask for reparations for losses incurred because of excess on the part of its opponents.

"America and its allies should bear the full responsibility for their excesses in the operations," he said.

The resolution requires Iraq to accept the removal or destruction under international supervision of all

chemical and biological weapons and nuclear-weapons-usable material, as well as all ballistic missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres, like the Scuds used to bombard Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Once the Security Council is satisfied Iraq's "offensive" potential has been neutralised, its sanctions on Iraqi exports — mostly oil — will be lifted.

But a percentage of the oil revenues is to be funnelled into a U.N.-administered fund to meet claims by governments, companies and individuals harmed by Iraq's invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

The precise percentage of revenues to be earmarked for the fund will be determined by the council, taking into account Iraq's existing debt commitments, its capacity to pay and the requirements of the Iraqi people.

When Baghdad says it accepts all provisions of the nine-page draft, a formal ceasefire will replace the present month-long suspension of hostilities between Iraq and the U.S.-led coalition.

This would clear the way for the despatch of U.N. observers to patrol a zone extending 10 kilometres into Iraq and five kilometres into Kuwait.

The United States will then be able to withdraw some 100,000 troops now occupying a swathe of southern Iraq.

Their presence on the sidelines as the Iraqi government snuffs out rebellions by Kurds and Shiite Muslims has become a political liability for Washington and its allies.

The resolution, the 14th adopted since Iraq's invasion last August, was sponsored by the United States, Britain, France and Romania, joined later by Belgium and Zaire.

It requires Baghdad to cooperate with the International Red Cross in the repatriation of Kuwaitis and other missing foreigners and to pledge not to support "international terrorism" or allow "terrorist" organisations to operate on its territory.

The resolution places an unprecedented economic and military stranglehold on Iraq, prompting some critics to compare it with the draconian provisions of the Treaty of Versailles, imposed on Germany after World War I.

Supporters of the draft call it a fair but firm means of ensuring that Iraq compensates those who suffered as a result of its invasion of Kuwait and is prevented from any repetition of its invasion.

While intervening deeply in Iraqi affairs relating to the invasion and its aftermath, it makes no attempt to dictate who shall rule in Baghdad.

The council, prompted by requests from Turkey and France, was due to turn to the humanitarian aspects of

that problem almost immediately. Under the resolution, Iraq must submit within 15 days a list of all chemical and biological weapons, nuclear weapons-usable materials and ballistic missiles, together with precise locations.

Within 45 days the U.N. secretary-general is to present the council with a plan for the establishment of a commission to conduct on-site inspections and destroy all the weapons within another 45 days.

Periodic monitoring will continue to ensure Iraq does not acquire such arms or materials in the future.

Depriving Iraq of these weapons is depicted by the resolution as steps towards the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction and of a global ban on chemical weapons.

Mr. Bush said, however, he had no intention of involving U.S. forces in Iraq's internal struggles.

Mr. Bush said "we've done the heavy lifting" — apparently referring to the Gulf war — and that it was now time for Iraqi people to resolve matters for themselves.

Asked about suggestions that U.S. troops in Iraq be permitted to shoot down Iraqi combat helicopters being used against rebels, Mr. Bush said: "We are not there to intervene. It is

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His Majesty King Hussein is greeted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon his return home Wednesday (Petra photo)

King: Europe anxious to see Mideast peace

Arab reconciliation should not be at the expense of Jordan's principled stand

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Wednesday after visits to France and Germany and said he found great concern in Europe over the Middle East situation and that European countries were anxious to see just peace in the region.

The King, who met with French President Francois Mitterrand and other French leaders in Paris and German President Richard von Weizsaecker and other German leaders in Bonn, said his talks in the French and German capitals were "extremely good and frank and were held in an atmosphere of friendship and confidence at all levels."

The King, in remarks carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Europe has a major role to play in the Middle East.

"Indeed, there is a great concern in Europe that the Middle East issues should be dealt with as soon as possible and in a

manner that would bring about a drastic change leading towards the better and towards the achievement of a just, durable and comprehensive solution," the King told Petra.

The Palestine question, the King said, acquires an appropriate status among all other issues and it should be dealt with quickly in a manner that would enable the Palestinians to exercise their right and allow the Palestinian leadership to have its say and contribute to the peace-making process within the ongoing international efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The King, expressing satisfaction over the outcome of his visits, said that France and Germany can play a special role along with the European countries.

"Discussions are under way to find ways for the establishment of a comprehensive peace," the King added in reply to a question

on the prospect of an international Middle East peace conference.

"We believe that the Arabs should work in concert and in cooperation with others to find a solution to the problem under U.N. auspices and through quick diplomacy which should not allow the present opportunity to be missed," he said.

With reference to the Gulf crisis and efforts to bring about reconciliation within the Arab World, the King said: "Nothing should be done at the expense of Jordan because Jordan had adopted a principled stand and opposed the idea of occupation of land by force and because Jordan has been against the invasion and annexation of Kuwait."

"On the other hand, Jordan was against war because of its devastating effects. That is our stand and I believe that we were

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U.S.-Iran hostage agreement reported

BEIRUT (AP) — The Beirut newspaper Al Diyar said Wednesday that Washington has reached an agreement with Iran on the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon before April 15. The report quoted unidentified sources in the predominantly Christian sector of Beirut as saying the deal was reached during a visit to Tehran, the Iranian capital, last week by an American diplomat. "The foreign hostages held in Lebanon would be released before the 15th of this month," the report said. "The settlement was reached in direct contacts carried out by an American diplomat who paid a secret visit to Tehran last week," said Al Diyar.

'Waite had spy bug in his beard'

LONDON (R) — Iranians told a jailed Briton that churchman Terry Waite was taken hostage in Lebanon because he was a spy whose beard was bugged. Roger Cooper said Wednesday that during his five-year incarceration he discussed British hostages with Iranians whom he said had "a definite intelligence link" with pro-Iranian Lebanese groups holding Western hostages. They told him that Mr. Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, was carrying a homing device in his beard to guide U.S. agents to Western hostages in Lebanon. "Quite early on after the arrest of Terry Waite I was told he was a spy and that they'd found a homing device hidden in his hair or his beard. And this proved that he was trying to lure the captors to where the hostages were and then the CIA would be monitoring him and they would be able to come in and rescue them," Cooper told the British Broadcasting Corporation. Mr. Waite's relatives said the spy charge was absurd.

Iraq retakes last town held by rebels

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID Wednesday its troops had recaptured the north-eastern Kurdish town of Sulaimaniya from "saboteurs and traitors."

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported that the inhabitants of Sulaimaniya, the last major town held by Kurdish rebels in the north, "joyfully greeted" the troops loyal to the government of President Saddam Hussein when they entered.

"The saboteurs and traitors escaped to the mountains," it said, quoting its correspondent in the town, which is near the Iranian border 100 kilometres east of Kirkuk.

The mountain town of Sulaimaniya, a main recruiting area for the Pesh Merga Kurdish guerrillas, is seen by Baghdad as a cradle of Kurdish nationalism.

It was the first town the Kurds took when launched their month-old rebellion after the Gulf war.

Kurdish rebels have acknowledged the loss of Kirkuk although they claim fighting continues on the outskirts of the oil city. The government also says it controls the towns of Dohuk, Erbil and Zakho, which is on its northern border with Turkey.

INA quoted the governor of Dohuk as saying "saboteurs" and "subversive cliques" who had held towns in that region committed barbaric crimes.

"There were many cases of rape and murder," he said. "They even attacked and robbed holy places, including mosques and churches."

International relief agencies said two to three million Kurdish

Baghdad appeals to northerners to return

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq said Wednesday that it had put down an insurrection in the north and appealed to all those who left their homes there to return and live in peace.

Iraqi radio, quoting a statement from the Iraqi leadership, said that the leaders of the rebellion had spread rumours that the government would victimise people living in the area.

"Citizens in the cities and the areas where law and order have been reestablished need not worry about their lives, property and legal rights," it added.

The statement, issued after a meeting of Iraqi leaders chaired by President Saddam Hussein, said only those involved in "crimes of murder, war, rape and theft, or (who) raised arms against the state and law," would be held accountable.

"We call on those who have left their homes in the northern cities and villages to return to live in peace and share the victory and security with everyone else," it said.

The statement, denounced those behind the rebellion as "gangs of thieves and saboteurs" who had links with countries opposed to Iraq. It said the Iraqi government had taken the necessary measures to restore security and order in the oil city of Kirkuk and the towns of Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaimaniya.

"The military action the government had to take to put down insurrection and sabotage in the north has thus fulfilled its purpose," the statement said. Prime Minister Saeedoun Hammadi, Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan, Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayer and Culture and Information Minister Hamid Youssef Hammoudi attended the meeting.

"The gang leaders presiding over the sabotage, whose hopes and projects and suspect plans have been thwarted, have sought to spread panic and biased rumours among the populace in these cities," they said in their statement.

"These rumours are that the state will victimise everyone, without discriminating saboteurs and citizens, and that the armed forces will target whoever is found in places where acts of sabotage have been committed," they added.

But they said ordinary citizens had nothing to fear.

A spokesman, who read the statement, accused foreign countries opposed to Iraq of conducting a psychological campaign "in the name of a false concern for Iraqi citizens."

Such countries did not express concern about the fate of Iraq's 18 million people during the attacks on them by the United States and its allies during the Gulf war, he said.

The spokesman appealed to neighbouring countries "to spare their relations with Iraq" by dissociating themselves from such a campaign.

refugees were on the run from violence.

Iraq, meanwhile, took steps to ease Kurds' fears that govern-

ment troops would take revenge on the northern cities that were

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France takes lead in holding Kurdish bastion

PARIS (Agencies) — A French cabinet minister will fly to Turkey to assess the needs of thousands of Kurdish refugees, French officials said.

Earlier reports that Junior Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Bernard Kouchner would enter Iraq without prior clearance from Baghdad were incorrect, they added.

Mr. Kouchner was to leave for Ankara at 2200 GMT Wednesday on a special flight and was awaiting authorisation from Tehran to fly to Iraq later.

Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said earlier that France was preparing fresh diplomatic and humanitarian initiatives to ease the plight of Kurdish people.

Mr. Dumas told parliament Mr. Kouchner was going to arrange humanitarian aid and hinted he might enter Iraqi territory.

His office said later Mr. Dumas had not intended to give that impression.

Mr. Kouchner's spokesman said he had no immediate plans to go to Iraq. Mr. Kouchner, 51, a doctor who helped create the international life group Medecine sans Frontieres, has carried out difficult humanitarian actions in Indochina, Africa and the Middle East.

The decision to send Mr. Kouchner came as France urged action against Iraq "repression" of Kurds, protesting to Baghdad and asking the United Nations to condemn the violence and maintain its trade embargo until repression ended.

As fear mounted for the fate of hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees, President Mitterrand told a cabinet meeting the prestige of the United Nations would be badly hurt unless it condemned the repression.

"Failing this, the political and moral authority of the United Nations would be seriously affected. France

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Brotherhood moves to reassert popularity; Friday's rally seen as a 'test of strength'

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Faced with media reports and widespread popular belief that its support is declining amongst the masses, the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, by far the best organised and biggest political group in Jordan, is taking a new initiative apparently to prove observers and "detectors" wrong.

The movement is organising a major rally for Friday, April 5, which many observers say is aimed, among other things, to serve as a major test of

strength in the aftermath of the Gulf war and joining Mr. Mudar Badran's government.

The rally, which is organised on the occasion of Fatah Mecca Day (the anniversary of Prophet Mohammed re-entering the Holy City after being driven out to the town of Medina earlier on) is held under the banner of "Rejection of American-Zionist Hegemony."

In large advertisements carried by Arabic dailies, the Brotherhood highlighted three slogans for the rally: "No" to the elimination of the Palestinian cause; "No" to American-Atlantic presence on Arab soil; and "No" to

the degrading American conditions (imposed) on Iraq.

The last pro-Iraq, anti-U.S. rally held by the movement and other Islamic groups in October drew an estimated crowd of 100,000 people — an unprecedented attendance of any political rally in the Kingdom.

A similar demonstration by the combined leftist parties drew only around 10,000 people soon afterwards.

Some political observers contend that the Brotherhood, and the Islamic trend generally, has lost ground among traditional supporters following Iraq's military defeat in the Gulf war and possibly also because Muslim Brothers joined the government in January.

There have been reports in the

Arab and international media that said the movement appeared to be losing popularity in Jordan after being seen to have neglected pledges to ease economic problems in the Kingdom and launch jihad to help Iraq in its war against the U.S.-led coalition.

The reports maintained that the Brotherhood made huge gains in the November, 1989 national elections on promises that Islam held the answer to Jordan's economic, social and political ills.

Five Brotherhood members later joined the government, a move which some critics of the movement now say contributed to their "downslide."

While the issue of the impact of the movement joining the govern-

ment remains largely unsettled, even controversial, observers and analysts claim that the position the Brothers had taken on the Gulf war and the outcome of the fighting has certainly weakened popular support for them.

"The war in the Gulf was portrayed as one between good and evil by the Islamists, as mainly represented by the Brotherhood," said a former minister who is also a keen observer of Islamic groups.

"When Iraq lost, people were disenchanted with propagators of this line," he added. "Mythology had lost to technology, and this is how support for the Brotherhood declined."

(Continued from page 4)



Sheikh Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifa

Libya, Syria reject foreign presence

NICOSIA (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has held talks with Syria's vice president and both oppose any foreign military presence in the Middle East, the Libyan news agency IANA said Wednesday. IANA said visiting Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam had discussed the current Arab situation with Colonel Qadhafi. "Viewpoints were identical on... rejecting any foreign military presence in the region whether in the form of armed units or stockpiling of arms and equipment," the agency said. U.S. officials say they are considering setting up a permanent base in the Gulf, possibly in Bahrain, after the bulk of their troops withdraw from the region.

PLO wants talks with Lebanese on disarmament

TUNIS, (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Wednesday it supported the Lebanese government's plans to disarm militias but wanted talks on arrangements for Palestinians.

The Lebanese government has demanded all armed groups in Lebanon, including Palestinian groups, disarm by the end of April or face forcible disarmament by Syrian and Lebanese troops.

The PLO leadership discussed the situation in Lebanon on Tuesday and decided that "the Lebanese government's efforts to strengthen sovereignty and stability and liberate South Lebanon deserve support," the PLO news agency Wafa said.

"The PLO leadership also expressed its sincere desire to reach complete understanding with the Lebanese government, through brotherly dialogue, on all matters related to organising the Palestinian presence in Lebanon and ... respecting the interests and rights of Palestinian citizens," it added.

The statement neither rejected or accepted explicitly the Lebanese demand that PLO guerrillas give up their weapons.

Abu Ali Mustafa, the PLO Executive Committee member in charge of Lebanese affairs, told Reuters Tuesday that PLO fighters in South Lebanon needed guns to face Israel as long as Israel and its militia allies held a border strip there.

"We are ready to reach a political agreement on all issues but if they want to use force to disarm us, we will resist, we will defend ourselves," he added.

One official of the mainstream PLO group Fatah told Reuters he expected the PLO would eventually agree to disarm.

In the Ain Al Hilweh, camp in

South Lebanon, Palestinian refugees say their guns guarantee their survival and they will fight Lebanese government moves to disarm them.

"Giving up our weapons means our end," said a 47-year-old woman at a grocery shop on the dusty main road of the camp.

"We will not feel safe without our men and guns," she said, to the nods of other refugees gathered around.

A 19-year-old student shook his fist in anger as he talked of the death of his parents in an attack by militiamen on their Tal Al Zaatar camp in 1976, a year after the start of Lebanon's civil war.

"Does the Lebanese government want the same fate for us?" he asked.

Ain Al Hilweh's tin shacks lined along narrow, dark alleyways bear witness to years of Israeli attacks, inter-Palestinian fighting and clashes with Lebanese militias.

Alleys are muddy from broken sewers and residents patch shell-pocked walls and broken windows with plastic bags stuffed with blankets and old clothes to keep out the winter wind.

Trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns manned by young guerrillas with Kalashnikov rifles guard the camp's entrances.

"Understand this: We will never surrender our weapons," one 19-year-old fighter said, raising his Kalashnikov in the air.

Many of the camp's 45,000 refugees said they only trusted their own men to defend them. The guerrillas said they could not let go of their weapons as long as Israel continued to control a border "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Some 3,000 Lebanese troops deployed in South Lebanon in February near Palestinian strong-

holds to extend the state's authority and stop guerrillas firing rockets at Israel.

Diplomats and Lebanese officials say disbanding the tens of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese gunmen is the biggest hurdle for an Arab-backed plan to end 16 years of civil war.

The government has appointed a committee to meet Palestinian representatives and discuss how to disband their private armies.

The Palestinians want the committee to discuss political relations between the (PLO) and Lebanon and organise their military presence in the country.

They also want a Palestinian embassy in Beirut, a move that would depend on improving relations between Syria — the main power broker in Lebanon — and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Some refugees at Ain Al Hilweh say their armed struggle will only end when they have their own territory.

"How are we supposed to continue the fight for our homeland if they take our weapons? once they give us a homeland, then we will be more than willing to disarm," said Wakid Mohammad, a 25-year-old pharmacist.

Asked if they would disarm in exchange for security guarantees from the Lebanese government, a group of men shouted together: "What guarantees? We have been fooled before, but never again."

Hundreds of unarmed Palestinians were massacred by militiamen at Beirut's Sabra and Shatila camps during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The PLO had withdrawn its men from Lebanon in return for U.S. guarantees that the settlements would be protected.

Since then guerrillas have been returning to Lebanon, where an estimated 10,000 Palestinian men are now deployed.

Kuwait nightlife gears up

KUWAIT (R) — The disco beat is pounding out again in Salmiya as status-conscious Kuwaitis shake off seven months of Iraqi occupation to rediscover the good times.

Salmiya, Kuwait's most fashionable nightlife district, is the place to be seen. Teenagers in sports cars cruise the area. Couples through the streets to shop for elegant suits and shoes, even though it is past midnight.

Fast-food restaurants are packed with people queueing for hamburgers — the urge to eat out is more intense during the holy month of Ramadan.

Tired of living in fear and of the hardships of post-war reconstruction, Kuwaitis are flocking to rediscover the pleasures they enjoyed before the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion shattered their consumer-oriented lifestyle.

"I looked everywhere to find a hamburger, because I haven't eaten a hamburger since August," said Yusuf Mohammad, a 25-year-old television director.

He stood in a long line waiting to be served at a packed buy-and-munch establishment which reopened on Tuesday night.

Mr. Mohammad said Kuwaitis' top priority was not buying clothes or going out, but eating — "to eat what they couldn't eat during the occupation."

Nearby Salem Mubarak Street, Kuwait City's equivalent of London's Oxford Street or New York's Fifth Avenue, is packed with cars and shoppers strolling along pavement cars drive around in a circle bumper-to-bumper, carrying Kuwaitis eager to savour the atmosphere.

Teenagers lounged in one car with the stereo thumping out a disco beat.

"We'd almost forgotten that these old days would return. We'd almost lost hope," Salah Al Azmi, a Kuwaiti army officer, who lived on the run during the Iraqi occupation, said as he strolled along Salem Mubarak Street with his wife.

During the occupation, Salem Mubarak Street changed. People still came to shop, but street vendors replaced the established stores, many of whose owners fled the country.

The variety in the stores now is not as extensive as it used to be and some shops, many of them looted, are still boarded up.

But you can already buy expensive suits, shoes, toiletries, electrical goods, spectacles and cassette tapes.

Mohammad Radwan, a Syrian shopkeeper selling women's clothes, said two of his three stores had been set on fire during the occupation and he was only able to open one. "But it's not too bad," he said.

At the nearby Sultan Centre supermarket, workers are filling shelves with a limited variety of goods. But there are heaps of fresh fruits and vegetables.

"In three days, we'll have everything you need," said manager Abdullah Jazara.

While the Patriots were morale-boosting, the fact is that out of 39 shots at Israel, only a couple were totally destroyed," said Mr. Lautenberg, a staunch supporter of Israel who has been meeting with government and military leaders since arriving in Tel Aviv Sunday.

"It's very interesting to see a country as highly developed as this one is, with a pretty skilled and capable military resource, to have been shaken by the intrusion into their existence by Scud missiles," said the senator, a member of the Senate's Defence Appropriations Subcommittee.

"They sure learned that a country's borders can be invaded without notice and without restraint," he said. "They now see things somewhat differently. ... that just a good on-the-ground military, a good airforce, doesn't really guarantee their security."

Free money in Kuwait — some not interested

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — The emir of this wealthy country is offering free money to every citizen who stayed through the Iraqi occupation, but some Kuwaitis are just shrugging, even grousing.

Some say they don't need the 500 dinars (\$1,700) — about one month's per-capita income. Others say it is not enough. A few think the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, should keep his cash and offer democracy instead.

The longest lines in recently reopened banks are for people buying U.S. dollars rather than Kuwaitis waiting for free money.

"I came to get some dollars so I can go on vacation outside Kuwait," said Abdul Hameed Jaseem, who was waiting at the Commercial Bank of Kuwait. "I don't need the (emir's) money."

Dahiri Ali said he had collected his 500 dinars and was giving it to Egyptians, Sudanese and other foreigners living in his neighbourhood who had assisted Kuwaitis during the occupation.

"The money is of no importance to me," said Mr. Ali, who runs a school bookstore. "I want to use it to thank the people who helped give us our country back."

With tremendous oil wealth and fewer than 600,000 citizens, Kuwait was one of the richest countries in the world before the Iraqi invasion last August. It had an annual per capita income of nearly \$20,000, though the devastation inflicted by the Iraqis will reduce living standards for years to come.

The government has enough

money left to provide free gasoline, water and other necessities.

The emir's offer, which took effect Saturday, is available to all Kuwaitis who remained in the emirate, a figure believed to be around 250,000. The offer is not available to foreigners who accounted for 73 per cent of Kuwait's population and 86 per cent of its work force before the invasion.

Many eligible Kuwaitis went to banks Saturday for their payment, saying they needed the money after being without work and salaries for the past eight months. The cash has been particularly welcome during Ramadan.

A sizeable number of Kuwaitis said the cash was merely a nice gesture on the part of the emir, one of the world's richest men.

"I'm not in need, but I'm thankful to the emir," said Ma-jeed Al Ahmed, a 23-year-old student. "Maybe I can use it sometime later."

Others were less grateful. "It's the emir's way of saying he's sorry," said Ibrahim Al Bahr, an engineer. "I think he should have given at least a thousand."

Hajjaj Sulayman, who was waiting at a bank with an eight-centimetre stack of Kuwaiti notes, said money was not the most valuable thing the emir had to offer.

"He should give us democracy instead," said Mr. Sulayman, a shoe store owner. "Does it look like I need money? I wish I could buy some democracy from the emir with this."

Republican group sees political reform in Kuwait

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Republican delegation to Kuwait said Tuesday it found a warm reception for proposed democratic reforms, including voting rights for women. The group plans a conference in Washington to further explore those aims.

The conference, in late April or early May, will include representatives of Kuwait's political opposition, including the London-based coalition that has formed to demand elections and legalised political parties, the Republican group said.

"There is certainly a lot of interest in this," said Rep. Robert Lagomarsino, chairman of the National Republican Institute for International Affairs, an affiliate of the party that promotes democracy overseas.

He said the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States, Saud Nasir Al Sabah, would be invited to the Washington conference, as well as Kuwaitis who remained in their country and formed the resistance movement during the country's occupation by Iraq.

Others invited will include members of Congress, experts at running elections and pollsters. One delegation official said the Kuwaitis now lack the expertise to sound out public opinion on issues facing the government.

The institute's programme director, Margaret Thompson, who was a member of last week's mission to Kuwait, said the occupation has helped unify the formerly disparate elements in the country's political opposition.

"A lot of people's views have changed," she said, creating more common ground for opposition groups as divergent as the Shi'ite Muslims on the right and the pan-Arab movement of the political left.

Mr. Lagomarsino said one difficulty facing the country was where to take the first step on the path towards democratisation.

"Should they set up an interim (legislative) body? Should they elect a new parliament first? Whatever they do, there is a fairly strong feeling that they should act under the 1962 constitution."

That document, adopted soon after Kuwait won independence, gives primary executive authority to a hereditary monarch, the emir. The constitution provides for an elected national assembly, but only adult males whose families were citizens before 1921 can vote.

Political parties are banned, and freedom of the press and public dissent have at times been curbed by the government.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq: U.S. troops might damage Ur

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq warned Tuesday that U.S. troops might be damaged by U.S. troops patrolling the archaeological site. "We alert the United Nations, the countries and peoples of the world and world organisations for culture and heritage to the responsibilities in preventing interference with this human legacy," Iraqi U.N. Representative Abdul Amir Al Anbari said. In a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, he said members of the U.S. armed forces "occupying the territory of Iraq" were patrolling at the Ur archaeological site in the province of Dhi Qar. "You are well aware of the historical and cultural importance of the Ur archaeological site as the centre of one of the most ancient of the human civilisations that arose in Mesopotamia and containing archaeological treasures of inestimable value," Mr. Anbari said. The presence there of U.S. forces "brings with it danger that these troops may tamper with and cause destruction of the site," he added.

Saudi papers cease attacks on Saddam

JEDDAH (AP) — For the first time since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Saudi newspapers came out Tuesday without attacks on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and without playing up a rebellion in Iraq. Newspaper sources said the Information Ministry instructed Saudi newspapers to stop personal attacks on President Saddam and to restrict mention of the uprising to what is reported by international wire services. The newspaper sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the instructions were issued verbally by Information Minister Ali Al Shaer to all Saudi editors in chief Sunday evening. The Monday editions could not be altered but Tuesday newspapers carried no criticism of President Saddam. The sources said the newspapers were instructed to carry agency copies from Iraq "without adding salt or pepper of their own." Personal attacks on President Saddam should also be stopped, the instructions said. Al Shaer Al Awat, a Jeddah newspaper based in London, for the first time Tuesday spoke about President Saddam as the "Iraqi president." Since the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, the title "president" was not used to refer to President Saddam in the newspaper.

Algerian premier urges political alliance

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche proposed a political alliance against secular and religious extremism in the run-up to the country's first multi-party elections. In an interview published in the daily Essalam Wednesday, he called for "a union of patriots to neutralise all forms of extremism." Over 40 political parties have emerged since President Chadli Benjedid introduced a multi-party system in 1989. General elections are due in late June or early July. "Our generation must strive and persevere to eliminate extremism from our society and contribute to an alternative that will turn back the extremism that certain ideologies and mentalities are trying to spread," Mr. Hamrouche said.

Kuwait Airways resuming flights from London

LONDON (AP) — Kuwait Airways, grounded during the Gulf war, said Wednesday that it would be resuming flights from Heathrow Airport Thursday. The airline plans to operate service between London and Bahrain, Bombay, Cairo and New York using Boeing 767 and Boeing 727 aircraft. Bahrain will be used as the airline's main operations hub until war damaged Kuwait City airport is rebuilt, officials said.

U.S. soldier loses legs in Kuwait

ABDULI, Kuwait (R) — A U.S. soldier, clearing an area for a refugee camp in Kuwait, lost both his legs when an unexploded bomb left over from the Gulf war blew up Tuesday, a Red Cross official said. Thomas Kerkering, an American Red Cross official who saw the wounded man, said he had stepped on an unexploded cluster bomb. "I don't know if he's going to make it," said Mr. Kerkering, who is helping the Kuwaiti Red Crescent to run the Abdali refugee camp. Mr. Kerkering said the soldier had been scouring a piece of land near the camp for unexploded bombs so that the refugee camp could expand.

Somalia accuses Kenya of helping rebels

NICOSIA (R) — Somali Prime Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib accused Kenya Tuesday of helping anti-government rebels, the Omani News Agency reported. "We have information that Kenya has started to help these elements, responsible for destroying economic resources and properties in Somalia," he said after meeting Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman. "It (Kenya) is providing them with arms and munitions." Mr. Ghalib was in Oman as part of a tour of oil-rich Gulf Arab states seeking financial help in rebuilding the country after the fall of former President Mohammad Siad Barre last January. He said Ali Mahdi Mohammad, appointed interim president pending the election of a new government, had sent a letter to Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, but had no reply. The agency quoted Mr. Ghalib as appealing for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Arab League to put pressure on Kenya to stop helping the rebels. The caretaker government last month postponed a national conference on the future of Somalia, an impoverished country in the Horn of Africa. Mr. Ghalib said he expected elections in which "all sections of the people will take part" to be held next year, but gave no specific dates.

Saudi says genuine peace needed

PARIS (AP) — Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said Tuesday that his country and France shared identical views on the need to profit from the post-war situation in the Middle East to seek a real peace and resolve the Palestinian question. Prince Saud Al Faisal met for 45 minutes with President Francois Mitterrand as well as with French counterpart, Roland Dumas. France and Saudi Arabia "will try to contribute in all sincerity and with seriousness to the realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," the prince said after his meeting with Mr. Mitterrand. He handed the French president a note from King Fahd regarding Saudi Arabia's appreciation for France's "noble position" during the Gulf crisis, the prince said, assuring that the French contribution would have a positive effect on bilateral relations and French ties with the Arab World.

Iran resumes mini war with Iraq-based rebels

NICOSIA (R) — Amid the confusion of the rebellions in Iraq, Iran's leaders and their Mujahadeen-e-Khalq rivals have resumed a mini-war halted when Tehran and Baghdad ended eight years of fighting in 1988.

Both Tehran and the Iraq-based Mujahadeen link recent clashes to rebellion against the government of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein which have abruptly halted an Iran-Iraq rapprochement set in motion by the Gulf crisis.

Iran said on Monday it had driven back a Mujahadeen assault on its soil across the Iraqi border, killing or capturing a number of the fighters. It formally protested to Iraq over the attack.

The Mujahadeen, fighting to topple the clerical government in Iran, says its National Liberation Army (NLA) has killed up to 2,500 Iranian Revolutionary Guards in battles inside Iraq over the past four weeks.

There was no independent confirmation of either report. "The Mujahadeen... tried in vain to infiltrate Iranian territory on the order of their master, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein," said the pro-government Tehran Times newspaper on Wednesday.

Iran has repeatedly denied Iraqi charges that it helped the rebellion which flared in the Shiite south and Kurdish north of Iraq.

But the Mujahadeen say Iran is fomenting the unrest in Iraq and taking advantage of it to wipe them out, using several brigades of Revolutionary Guards massed on the border.

"The Iranian regime was given peace by Iraq, but it cannot live without a foreign crisis so it is meddling in the unrest inside Iraq," the Mujahadeen spokes-

man in London Farzin Hashemi said.

The Mujahadeen emerged in 1970 as a leftist, Islamic clandestine group dedicated to toppling the western-backed government of the late Shah.

They played a role in the 1979 Islamic revolution but soon fell out with the ruling clerics who denounced them as "monafiqin" — a Koranic term meaning hypocrites.

The Mujahadeen moved to Iraq in 1986 at the height of the Iran-Iraq war when their leader Massoud Rajavi was in effect forced out of France, where he had been in exile.

In garrisons provided by Iraq they built up a force estimated by diplomats at 30,000 trained men and women, equipped largely with Iraqi army weapons and arms captured on battlefields.

The NLA's biggest thrust into western Iran halted outside the provincial capital of Bakhtaran in July 1988, less than a month before the Iran-Iraq war halted with a ceasefire.

Tehran said it killed 4,800 of the 7,000 NLA troops after trapping the rebels who had captured several small towns in their 48-hour, 100-km thrust.

The NLA said it was withdrawing to regroup and mount further attacks after losing 1,000 men and women in the operation.

Mr. Hashemi denied various reports in the Iranian and Western press that Iraq had earlier curbed the Mujahadeen since it made peace with Iran in August after invading Kuwait.

"Our presence in Iraq is based on a joint agreement we signed when we moved there in 1986 not to interfere in each other's internal affairs. This agreement has been adhered to so far," he said.

Israel wants U.S. assurances

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israel wants assurances from the United States that it would not be forced to give up its military edge because of advanced arms sales to Arab states, Senator Frank Lautenberg said Tuesday.

"It has been suggested there are massive requests for arms from Saudi Arabia, from some other countries, that make the Israelis very nervous," Mr. Lautenberg said in a telephone interview from occupied Jerusalem.

Israel's military and political leaders have conveyed concerns about access to "the kind of equipment that can preserve an edge they've built to protect themselves," the Democrat said.

That might include continued joint development of the Arrow anti-missile missile with the United States, or other research and development help, he said.

"While the Patriots were morale-boosting, the fact is that out of 39 shots at Israel, only a couple were totally destroyed," said Mr. Lautenberg, a staunch supporter of Israel who has been meeting with government and military leaders since arriving in Tel Aviv Sunday.

"It's very interesting to see a country as highly developed as this one is, with a pretty skilled and capable military resource, to have been shaken by the intrusion into their existence by Scud missiles," said the senator, a member of the Senate's Defence Appropriations Subcommittee.

"They sure learned that a country's borders can be invaded without notice and without restraint," he said. "They now see things somewhat differently. ... that just a good on-the-ground military, a good airforce, doesn't really guarantee their security."

Captured Afghan city quiet as victors wait for response

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Afghan garrison captured by Mujahadeen guerrillas four days ago was reported quiet on Wednesday with no sign of a promised government effort to recapture the city.

Mujahadeen sources in the Pakistan frontier city of Peshawar said the government fired three Scud missiles on Tuesday but they fell harmlessly outside the garrison.

The capture of Khost by the rebels Sunday was a major morale boost after two years of political and military stalemate in the 12-year-old Afghan conflict.

Afghanistan's Ambassador to India Ahmad Sarwar vowed on Tuesday that Khost would be

retaken soon as reiterated Kabul's charge that Pakistani forces played a decisive role in the battle.

Western diplomats in Islamabad said the Afghan government had reinforced Gardez City which lies between Khost and the capital Kabul, but had detected no sign it was preparing a counter-offensive.

"They are playing a cagey game. It is not clear what they are going to do," one diplomat said.

A special sitting of parliament in Kabul declared on Tuesday that the assault on Khost, 25 kilometres from Pakistan border, had done nothing to change the military balance, the official Bakhtar news agency reported.

Air power remains a key advantage for the Soviet-supported government of President Najibullah, but the rebels said bad weather seemed to have prevented any retaliatory air strikes on Khost since Sunday night.

The first video film to emerge of the final battle showed Mujahadeen guerrillas firing mortars and multiple-rocket launchers from high points around the river valley in which Khost lies.

The guerrillas took at least 2,500 prisoners when most of the garrison surrendered on Sunday and the film shows a bearded Mujahadeen commander haranguing a group of prisoners after the city fell.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

05:58 Fajr
05:17 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:39 Dhuhr
15:12 'Asr
18:01 Maghrib
19:19 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

WEATHER

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 637981, 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 649432

It will be relatively cold and partly cloudy to cloudy at times, with expected scattered showers. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 10 / 18
Aqaba 19 / 30
Deserts 9 / 22

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Jordan Valley 15 / 25
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 20, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 61 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shaer 791405
Dr. Munazzar Al Qasbi 776258
Dr. Jamal Abu Baker 746426
Dr. Sa'ed Abu Hatab 649846
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 625672

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 774111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hossein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Akilish Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642262
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 648845
Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 1200 / 1000
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mukammal) 450 / 400

MARKET PRICES

Beans 720 / 600
Cabbage 140 / 100
Carrot 200 / 150
Cauliflower 140 / 100
Cucumbers (large) 250 / 200
Cucumbers (small) 420 / 360
Dates 1000 / 900
Eggplant 480 / 400
Garlic 300 / 250
Grapefruit 160 / 120
Lemon 280 / 200
Lettuce (per one) 680 / 600
Marrow (large) 250 / 200
Marrow (small) 480 / 400
Onion (dry) 300 / 25

MAP raises funds for Palestinians, says conditions worsened after Gulf war

AMMAN — The London-based Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) is currently raising funds to help support the medical needs of the Palestinians under Israeli occupation. One of the founding members, Dr. Swee Chai Ang, author of the book "From Beirut to Jerusalem," has been active in promoting the cause of the Palestinians.

Kathy Qaqish from Radio Jordan interviewed Dr. Ang on the telephone and asked her about the reports MAP had been receiving on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

"Because of the situation in the Gulf nearly 300,000 Palestinians who used to work in Kuwait and who used to transfer money to their families in the occupied lands have lost their livelihood with devastating effects on themselves and their relatives in areas under Israeli occupation," said Dr. Ang.

"Indeed these Palestinian expatriates used to finance Palestinian institutions, like hospitals and schools, and MAP is trying to find means of supporting the medical centres in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," she said. "Not only has the demand from the Palestinian medical institutions increased, but our own problems in England have doubled as there is a lot of misunderstanding in the West regarding the Palestinians due to erroneous information about the Palestinians," she added.

"I think that the Palestinians have been very much the victim of what was going on in the Gulf and, regrettably, sympathy for



Dr. Swee Chai Ang

the Palestinians has eroded and our charity has suffered a serious drop in funding," Dr. Ang said.

But at the same time, she noted, "We have people depending on us, like the hospital in Gaza which we kept going by supplying nurses and doctors."

Asked on MAP's activities to win support in the West for the Palestinian cause, Dr. Ang said that MAP had been explaining the plight of the 1.7 million Palestinians, who were not only deprived of their livelihood because of the Gulf crisis, but who also face repression and heavy taxes imposed on them by the Israeli authorities at a time when few Arabs are allowed to go to work in Israel.

Asked on the seriousness of the situation in the occupied territories, Dr. Ang said that the majority of people faced difficulty and many faced real hunger.

"In the past we used to see hunger in Gaza only, but lately

we see hunger even in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the United Nations agencies have now started to supply food even to non-refugees to prevent starvation," Dr. Ang added.

She said that there was a shortage of food on a constant basis and people starved and suffered from malnutrition mainly because of prolonged curfews.

Dr. Ang referred to her tour in the United States, where she addressed religious groups and politicians, saying: "I think the message is quite clear, that every one does not seek a just and peaceful way of solving things in the Middle East, and therefore I believe that this will not be the last war to be fought," Dr. Ang pointed out.

Dr. Ang said that she would be coming to Jordan in the course of a march to raise funds for the Palestinian people. "I would really want to thank the Jordanian people for all they are doing to help the Palestinians," Dr. Ang said.

Born in 1948, Dr. Ang graduated from the University of Singapore. In 1976 she went to Britain with her husband and qualified as an orthopaedic surgeon. Following the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Dr. Ang volunteered with a medical team to help the besieged Palestinians in Beirut camps, and was active in her assistance to the refugees following the massacres of Sabra and Shatila.

Her book "From Beirut to Jerusalem" offers an outline of her experience with the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Study shows summer time saved the country JD 1.7m in five years

Jordan switches to summer time April 17

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will switch to summer time at midnight, Wednesday, April 17, 1991, when clocks will be advanced by 60 minutes to run three hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), according to a communiqué issued by Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday.

The switch, adopted for the sixth consecutive year, is aimed at conserving energy, an aim which the government has been trying to achieve through different means.

During the Gulf crisis, the government introduced a number of measures to conserve energy, including the adoption of a two-day per week holiday for government departments, reducing the period during which businesses can operate in the evening, and allowing private cars to run only on alternate days.

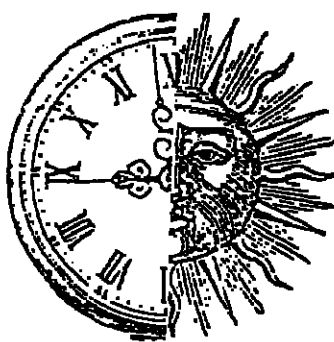
According to a statement issued Wednesday by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has conducted studies on the adoption of summer time in Jordan, revealing that the measure helps reduce fuel consumption in all forms.

The studies, Petra said, quoting the Ministry of Energy, which covered the 1986-1990 period, showed that the reduction in electricity consumption saved fuel worth JD 327,000 each year, and the total amount saved over the past five years, thanks to the introduction of summer time, was 44,000 tonnes of fuel, worth JD 1.7 million.

In view of the current prices of fuel used to generate electricity in Jordan, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources expects that by switching to summer time, this year the country could save as much as JD 500,000, Petra noted.

It said that by applying the summer timing, homes will save one hour of lighting at night.

In addition, the agency said, there will be a cut in the period of time during which air condition-



ing systems operate.

The drive to save energy comes at a time when the cash-strapped country is striving to reduce its fuel import bill.

Following Saudi Arabia's decision to cut off oil supplies to Jordan, and due to the Gulf war, which brought to an end Jordan's reliance on Iraqi crude, the Kingdom has now started buying oil from Yemen and Syria at international market rates, higher than the rates of Iraqi crude shipped to Jordan in payment of debts to the Kingdom.

Specialists estimate that by adopting summer time, Jordan will save one hour of energy per day, consumed for lighting, by reducing the need for artificial light during the evening, which means saving up to 20 per cent of the total energy normally consumed in the country.

According to the statistics, Jordan imports about 22 million barrels of crude annually and the energy conservation methods are deemed necessary under the present circumstances.

Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Jamal Sarairoh said in a statement last month that the energy conservation programme, introduced by the government during the Gulf crisis, saved up to JD 13,000 on a daily basis.

Syria introduced summer time on April 1, while Israel switched to summer time last month.

Humanitarian group lauds Jordan's aid to evacuees

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 13-member peace group representing "Earthstewards Organisation" in the United States held a press conference in Amman Wednesday during which they voiced the organisation's appreciation of Jordan's position and Jordan National Red Crescent Society's (JNRCS) assistance given to the evacuees who fled Kuwait during the Gulf crisis.

Head of the group Danna Pary said that his organisation had conducted a campaign in the United States to collect contributions to Jordan and said that the Kingdom deserved appreciation and help from all countries for its care for nearly one million evacuees of various nationalities.

According to JNRCS Vice-President Mohammad Hadid, the group brought to Jordan medicine and medical equipment which would be used by the Hilal Hospital. He told the Jordan Times that JNRCS had arranged for the group to tour different areas, including evacuee camps, in the country.

Mr. Danna Pary told the press conference that his organisation deeply regretted the ongoing propaganda campaign in the West aimed at distorting facts about the situation in the Middle East region.

According to the group members who addressed the press conference, the organisation collected children milk and brought it to Jordan as a gift.

Ceramics industry reports ups and downs

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ceramics company in Jordan Wednesday announced it was operating at 50 per cent production capacity due to the economic recession brought about by the Gulf crisis, but the management has high hopes that new markets will be found soon in Arab and foreign countries.

Ghazi Zakarnah, executive director of the Arab Ceramics Industries Company (ACIC), said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ceramics plant, founded last year at Sahab Industrial City, near Amman, was seeking new markets to replace those in the Gulf states which have stopped importing their products from Jordan.

"The company, which has a total capital of JD 2 million, with investments exceeding JD 5 million, was originally established in Spain before opening a branch in Jordan with capital from Jordan and other Arab countries, Mr. Zakarnah said.

The plant in Spain markets its products in the countries of the European Community, while that in Jordan is selling products, mainly floor and wall tiles, to the Arab World and Asian countries," Mr. Zakarnah pointed out.

Mr. Zakarnah said that the Sahab plant employs 100 workers and technicians, but the number could be increased in the light of an increase in production which

now covers the Kingdom's needs and leaves good amounts for export.

The other ceramics company is the Jordan Ceramics Industries Company (JCIC) which was established in 1977 and which has a total capital of JD 2 million, and assets estimated at JD 7 million, according to the company's Director General Fathi Hiyasat.

Mr. Hiyasat told the Jordan Times that the company's sales last year were worth JD 4.6 million, registering a JD 1 million profit.

"Our production covers 90 per cent of the Jordanian market's needs of ceramics and we sell products to other Arab and foreign countries as well," said Mr. Hiyasat.

"Recently we signed a contract to sell the Soviet Union \$250,000 worth of ceramics products and last year we sold unspecified amounts to South Korea," Mr. Hiyasat said.

"All the raw materials needed for the ceramics industry in Jordan are found in the country, especially in the areas of Mahes, Mudawara, Bata Al Ghoul and Ras Al Naqab in southern Jordan, but the company continues to buy the paint for the ceramics from foreign countries as no such paint can be found in the Arab World," Mr. Hiyasat added.

"By producing ceramics in Jordan, we are saving the country an estimated JD 4 million in hard currency annually."

Queen tours south

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday toured Wadi Araba and the southern Jordan Valley region to familiarise herself with the conditions of people there and to get acquainted with the damages afflicted by the rainstorm and floods that swept the area last week.

Queen Noor started her tour by visiting Qawqira village, situated in the desert extending between the cities of Aqaba and Karak, where she got acquainted with the difficult living conditions of the citizens who are deprived of the basic requirements. The population of the village is estimated at about 3,000 people, most of them depending on raising sheep and farming, while the rest have no sources of income.

Queen Noor also inspected the village's health centre, which was set up and equipped last week. The centre was not inaugurated officially yet and has no resident doctor at the time being. A doctor, who works in the city of Aqaba, visits the centre twice a week and a male nurse is in charge of the centre for the rest of

the week. Her Majesty asked the concerned authorities to provide basic and comprehensive health care services to the region, including consultancy and education services to help prevent the spread of diseases and epidemics.

The Queen met with teachers and students at the village's school where she was briefed on the problems they are facing.

Her Majesty affirmed the need to draw a comprehensive development plan for the region, by defining priorities, and said the government would contribute to implementing it.

Upon directives from Her Majesty, the region will be included in Al Nor Project for Developing Rural Areas, which is carried out by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF). The project aims at improving the living conditions of the region's inhabitants.

On the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to the village, the Civil Consumers Corporation distributed food supplies to the village citizens.

Queen Noor then visited Al Mazra'a area, in the southern Jordan Valley region, to familiarise herself with measures taken by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) to repair damages caused by floods at Wadi Al Karak irrigation project.

The Queen then reopened Wadi Al Hasa dam in the region after preliminary restoration work ended there.

Her Majesty was briefed by the Karak governor on the damages to the agricultural sector and private and public property.

Queen Noor lauded the citizens' cooperation with the official institution in the process of assessing the extent of damage and commended the government's attempts to find swift solutions to the problems.

She called for enhancing this cooperation because of the fruitful results it will produce in developing the region.

The Queen was accompanied on the tour by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal, the NHF director general and several officials.

Iraq's stock of cooking gas, kerosene running out fast

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraq has only a few days' supply of kerosene and cooking gas to meet the demands of its people, and unless the international community rushes in the two products immediately, the very existence of millions of Iraqis would be put in jeopardy, according to experts who are familiar with the energy situation in the embattled country.

"The country's stock of kerosene and gas cylinders will run out in the next few days, leaving more and more Iraqis to turn to wood for cooking purposes," said one of the experts. "As it is, many people have used up most of the available wood — furniture in many cases — and it will only be a matter of time before they will have nothing to cook their food with — whether kerosene, gas or wood," said the expert, who has just returned from Iraq after a three-week stay there.

Under rationing imposed by the government, every family is supposed to get one cylinder of cooking gas every month. But few cylinders are available at the price fixed by the government — 0.90 fils each. Each cylinder now costs as much as 15 dinars on the black market.

In some cases, stampedes have been reported when government centres opened their doors to distribute gas. Kerosene — also rationed at 60 litres per family per month — was the main, perhaps the only, heating fuel available to the Iraqis during the winter. But the fuel is also needed to cook food since most of them have turned to primitive kerosene stoves to make up for the shortage in cooking gas.

According to the expert, who preferred anonymity, the devastation of Iraqi facilities in the allied blitzkrieg in the Gulf war is of such an extent that it would take anywhere between

three months to one year before Iraq's power-generating and oil refining capacity could be raised to the minimum level required to operate water sanitation plants and power-generators on an emergency basis.

"Small mobile generators — imported during peacetime but in limited quantities — are being used by the Iraqis now to operate hospitals, but they also need a minimum amount of fuel," the expert pointed out.

"In my personal estimate, the authorities will not be able to meet more than seven to 10 per cent of Iraqis' power needs for the next few months," he said.

Analysts in the power industry say that the pre-war electricity requirement of Iraq was around 1,800 megawatts: about 30 per cent produced by hydropower, but these facilities have also been hit in the allied bombing. The country had a total installed capacity of 1,950 megawatts.

A United Nations mission which visited Iraq in mid-March reported that the "minimum survival level to undertake humanitarian activities would require approximately 25 per cent of pre-war civilian domestic fuel consumption." The mission, in its findings to the U.N. secretariat, underlined that "fuel imports must take place urgently."

Iraq, with a high level of urbanisation, depended on oil and its derivatives for about 85 per cent of its energy consumption since 72 per cent of its 18 million people lived in towns; in the rural areas, almost every phase of agriculture and farming was dependent either on fuel or electricity.

Various international agencies have been sending fuel — in addition to relief supplies such as food and medicine to Iraq — but a Jordanian relief worker described such supplies as "a drop in the bucket."

The pre-war oil consumption of Iraq is estimated at around 400,000 barrels a day. Now, the amount of refined products reaching the public is less than 10 per cent of this figure, according to the relief worker, who also emphasised the general, priority needs of the Iraqi people.

"What we are talking about is food, water and medicine for 18 million people," said the relief worker who accompanied a convoy of supply to Iraq last week. "If we are to calculate one loaf of bread for one person per day, it means 1.8 million tonnes of baked bread — 100,000 trucks each of 18 tonnes capacity — for bread alone," he said. "Imagine the amount of fuel required to transport that quantity or even 10 per cent of it."

The situation facing Iraq was described as "near-apocalyptic" by the U.N. mission, which was headed by Under Secretary-General Martti Ahtisaari of Finland.

"Bombardment has paralysed oil and electricity sectors almost entirely," says the report, a copy of which was available to the Jordan Times. "Power and refineries' production will not be resumed until the first repair phase is complete," it adds.

The report called for allowing Iraq to import not only fuel but also power units and spare parts.

Acting in line with the report, the Security Council voted in the third week of March to partially lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait in August. But several conditions were attached to supplying food, medicine and essential commodities, thus slowing down the process.

The Iraqi government has assured the Ahtisaari mission that it was willing to adhere to U.N. supervision of imports as well as actual use of essentials in the country, the report said.

Some Muslims reluctant to go on pilgrimage after Gulf war

By Rana Sabbagh
Reuters

AMMAN — Some Muslims are reluctant to make the annual pilgrimage to Islam's holiest sites because of Saudi Arabia's anti-Iraq stand in the Gulf war.

The Jordanian government, anxious to heal the Arab rifts caused by the conflict, has given the pilgrims clearance to go.

But they may be deterred by anger at Saudi Arabia's support for the U.S.-led allies and sensitivity over the continued presence of U.S. troops.

The haj is one of the five basic duties of Islam and should be performed by every Muslim at least once in his lifetime if he has the means.

"I will not go to the haj while Americans and Jews are still there desecrating the holy places," said Jordanian technician Nidal Marzouk. "It is a duty, but after all that happened this year it is hard for me to forget and go."

Jordan's main Muslim Brother-

hood movement is taking the government line and recommending participation.

"Haj is a duty and a temporary misunderstanding between us and the rulers of Saudi Arabia should not disrupt this duty," a spokesman said. "Those who can afford it should go."

Relations between Amman and Riyadh deteriorated, as many Jordanians took a fierce pro-Iraqi stance in the conflict, but fence-mending is now the main priority.

"King Hussein is keen on restoring Arab unity and letting the Arab League come out with a new outlook so that it can play a leading role in serving Arab interest," said Ahmad Hleiel, secretary general of the Religious Endowments Ministry.

Algeria, which opposed the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf, has said it will take part in the haj, but opinion polls indicate the majority of Algerians will stay at home.

"No haj as long as the Americans govern (Arabia)," the daily newspaper Echaab said in the

headline to its survey.

"Boycotting the pilgrimage this year is logical as long as reaction and treachery dominate the holy places," one polled person told the newspaper. He advised fellow Algerians to send gifts instead to Iraqi children.

However, the main opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), has said Algerians could both go to Mecca and demand that foreign troops leave the Gulf.

"There is no need to have a fatwa (decree) to do it. Can defending Iraq imply disobeying God?" FIS President Abbasi Madani said.

The haj issue has attracted less attention in Tunisia, where the authorities are allocating places to 7,000 pilgrims, the same number as last year.

Few Tunisian Muslims take part in the haj; the current quota allows for only one in 200 to go even once in a lifetime.

Iran, which stayed neutral during the war, is enjoying much improved relations with Saudi Arabia.

Libyan team, JES officials hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A Libyan economic and trade team, currently on a visit to Jordan, Wednesday met with the Board of Directors of the Jordanian Exporters Society (JES).

Deputy Chairman of the society's Board of Directors Kamal Qaqish briefed the team on the society's duties and works in serving its members by marketing their products and opening new markets for them.

He expressed the society's readiness to cooperate with Libyan exporters. He said the Jordanian industrial products, which are distinguished for their reasonable prices and good quality, were able to compete with more advanced states' industries in the markets of neighbouring countries.

The society provided the Libyan team with lists and catalogues of the Jordanian industries.

Head of the visiting delegation, Saleh Al Sheikh, who is also in charge of import/export operations in Libya, stressed his country's keenness to bolster and promote cooperation between Jordan and Libya in various fields.

The delegation is on a several-day visit to Jordan for talks designed to promote economic and trade ties between the two countries and pave the way for the signing of new agreements on trade exchanges.

The team has held talks with delegations representing the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Amman Chamber of Commerce.

Charity organisation, UNRWA sign agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement of cooperation has been signed between Human Appeal — Jordan office, represented by the regional Director Bahaaeddin Shanabli and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), represented by the field relief and social services officer in Jordan.

The two parties agreed on April 4, 1991, on holding joint cooperation courses of social training and rehabilitation for women in refugee camps.

Human Appeal also signed an

agreement with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) in Jordan to supervise and coordinate the above mentioned courses.

Human Appeal took it upon itself to work for developing and modernising the needy communities, either through the provision of concrete assistance or the provision of moral and cultural support. "Hence our experience in Jordan comes to support the programmes of the organisation and to strengthen the relationship with U.N. organisations," says a statement issued after signing the agreement.

Gulf Bank trains local staff in Kuwait

AMMAN (J.T.) — During the months following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Gulf Bank of Kuwait took the opportunity to review its activities in readiness for the resumption of business once the liberation of the country was complete. One major area of activity was the launch of an ambitious training scheme aimed at increasing the number of Kuwaiti nationals employed by the Gulf Bank and to encourage young Kuwaitis to choose banking as a career.

Training centres were set up in Dubai in February, and Cairo in March. From several hundred applicants in each area, fifty were chosen to undergo this intensive programme of career development. The course consisted of five main stages of activity, including one week of English lan-

guage banking familiarisation, three weeks of banking operations, customer services and keyboard skills. This was followed by two months practical experience in different Arab banks in the region.

The training of candidates was undertaken by senior staff of the Gulf Bank, specifically chosen for their experience and awareness of the high standards required. Customer service is a high priority for the bank, so particular emphasis was placed on this subject to ensure that the candidates were trained to serve speedily and efficiently.

The past seven months has been a period of intensive activity for the Gulf Bank, and it is now a position to resume business at an even higher level of excellence than before.

Customs to auction cars

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Customs Department announced that it had seized nearly 1,000 private cars whose drivers have so far failed to provide evidence that they own them and therefore the local customs authorities will have to sell the cars at auction.

All these cars bear the licence plate "Iraq-Kuwait" issued by the Iraqi authorities to those fleeing from Kuwait following Iraq's takeover of the emirate on Aug. 2 1990, according to customs officials quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic

The officials said that there were nearly 25,000 such cars, which arrived in Jordan during the Gulf crisis, and that at least 1,000 of them have no known owners.

All the cars with such plates have to pay JD 30 every three months in order to get permission to run on Jordanian roads and, according to the report, owners of these cars have been appealing to the government to exempt them from such payments since they are jobless and had sustained great losses of cash and

property in Kuwait.

According to the report, owners of the Iraq-Kuwait plated cars have been seeking to have them registered in Jordan since they can by no means return to Kuwait.

The whole issue is now before the Council of Ministers, which is the sole authority to take decisions in this case, customs officials said.

The customs duty on these cars ranges from 100 per cent to up to 300 per cent of the car's original price.

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United they should stand

THROUGHOUT the past month, the biggest question was whether Iraq as a country could survive the Shiite rebellion in the south and the Kurdish armed mutiny in the north. Today that question is more or less moot, thanks to an army that, despite all the odds, held its own.

The Iraqi government's success in quelling the rebellion has been impressive, given the fact that Iraq was almost totally devastated as a country by the war. In fact, it was due to that devastation that the rebellion started and grew in the first place. Baghdad's success, however, has not been without a price. Thousands of Iraqis have been killed. Hundreds of thousands displaced. More destruction and suffering ensued. Enmity and hatred amongst members of the Iraqi family deepened. And above all agony over the future now looms larger than ever before.

It is indeed this last worry that warrants the most attention and greatest concern. For the Kurds and the Shiites are Iraqis too, and their problems within the state and grievances with the system have to be promptly tackled and solved.

This cannot and should not be done by shedding more blood, or by retribution and wreaking further havoc within a society that has had enough of war and enough of everything related to conflict and bloody struggle.

It is incumbent on the central government in Baghdad, on the Iraqi Shiites and Kurds, even the various opposition groups inside and outside the country, to come together, talk, negotiate and compromise, to reach a just and lasting agreement on reconciliation, and making progress by the whole country and all its people. True, this is a most difficult and arduous task in light of what happened. But magnanimity and forgiveness are always the best cure to feuds and disputes, especially among brothers and countrymen. Iraq did not begin with Saddam Hussein or with Jalal Talbani and Mohammed Bakr Al Hakim, nor will it end with them. Iraq is for all Iraqis. It has always been an integral part of history and will continue to be there. For a better, more secure and stable future, therefore, every effort must be made now to tackle the roots of fratricide and civil strife.

It is to this end that we laud the ability of the Iraqi army, despite the heavy price, to retake control of most of Iraqi territory and towns. And it is to this end also that we welcome the government's pledge to democratise and pluralise political life in the republic. Iraq, throughout its history, was a diversified mix of religions, cultures and ethnic groups. It has to survive and prosper this way with equal rights and duties granted to and demanded of everyone living there. We say this in the full knowledge that the challenges are great and the circumstances are extremely difficult. What with the newest U.N. Security Council resolution that Iraq has to take with swallowed pride and at great cost to itself and its people! Not to forget the colossal task of rebuilding and rising from the ashes of war! The challenges have to be confronted head on. But they will be a lot easier when faced by a united country and by a people at peace with itself.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

BY BACKING the separatists in Iraq, France is proving once again that it is in the pay of the U.S.-Zionist alliance, and would stop at nothing to display hostility towards the Arab Nation — the enemies of this alliance. Al Rai Arabic daily said Wednesday. France's moves at the international level to show backing and support for the separatists who caused so much atrocities in Iraqi towns follows in the wake of French air raids on Iraqi towns and the killing of Iraqi civilians, said the paper. The air raids on Iraq can be no means draw support from any one in the Arab World, and France's new moves to support rebels can only be interpreted as an open hostility to this nation, the paper said. The Arab people still remember the massacres committed by France in Algeria, Syria, Tunisia, Libya and Morocco, and can only regard the current moves as further French crimes committed against the Arabs and Muslims, it noted. France, which banned Arab and Islamic press and stopped all Arab and Islamic broadcasts, can by no means deceive anybody by trying to show sympathy towards the rebels in Iraq, nor can it win the hearts of the Arab people by pursuing its crimes against them, the paper added. The paper said that no doubt Paris took its orders from Israel and the United States, and is now sacrificing principles for the sake of ensuring selfish interests.

A columnist in Al Dustour daily promotes the cause of poultry farmers who, he says, are not receiving any support for their work from the concerned Jordanian authorities, something which has caused the present confusion and the closure of many of these farms. Mohammad Daoud says that the government has ignored complaints raised by the poultry farmers, and have instead resorted to selling frozen poultry meat in the local markets at lower prices which drove many of these farmers out of business. The writer notes that Jordan, which used to export white meat, is now counting on imported poultry meat to feed its population. There is an urgent need for the government to seriously study problems related to poultry farming so that objective solutions can be found, the writer demands. He asks the Ministry of Supply to refrain from selling frozen poultry and to abstain from interfering in the prices of the locally produced poultry meat if the local farmers are to be encouraged to pursue their work in a profitable manner and to serve their country. The writer notes in particular that the price of animal feed is closely connected to the price of poultry meat, and for this reason he calls on the government to deal with the question of the feed's soaring prices. He says that not only the farmers are bound to sustain losses, but also those who had invested huge sums in this business. The writer says finding solutions for these problems is not a miracle, and it is urgent that the local authorities look into the matter before it is too late.

The call of arms and the poor man

By J.K. Galbraith

THERE was one thing that, above all, in our days of eminence, Americans were taught. That was to be cautious about too obtrusive a claim to superiority. Superiority there was of course — technical, economic, military, even intellectual — but it was not to be mentioned. This valuable instruction continues and keeps us from asserting one defining quality that sets us apart, if not exactly above. That, out of a special experience, is our ability to distinguish rhetoric from reality in political speeches and, indeed, to assume the former.

I was deeply impressed by this advantage a few weeks ago when travelling in Europe. I was repeatedly asked by mentally competent people, including numerous journalists, what I thought of President Bush's herald of a new world order. This was with an emphasis that leads me here to wonder if it shouldn't be written The New World Order. I knew by national advantage that this was speech, not substance. So, I cannot doubt, did most of my intellectually viable countrymen. We have come, thanks to Mr. Reagan and now Mr. Bush, to assume this in presidential communication, military ventures apart. Faced with an especially difficult domestic problem, Mr. Bush, like Mr. Reagan before him, goes all out with oratory and, in the extreme case, promises additional research. I very much wish to see a better ordering of world relationships. However, I do not think we should minimise the hard steps that are involved. They cannot be wholly disguised even by the most accomplished oratory.

That the collapse of the communist economic system and its supporting political rigour has greatly changed the world is not in doubt. This has precipitated local discord and dissent, and it commits the countries in question to the untold and perilous path from comprehensive socialism back to the mixed economy now seen to be the greater economic and political success. A far from minor requirement of a new world order is that this transition be assisted by the more fortunate countries in a highly tangible way with money and credits. It is vital that political liberty and a movement to a market economy not be identified with intolerable hardship. It is also more than parenthetically important that the economic system to which these countries are moving be seen to be the socially pragmatic combination of state and private activity that serves in Western Europe, the United States and Japan, and not the cruel and rigorous capitalism that some from those countries so ardently recommend and yearn to have at home.

But the larger effects of the change in Central Europe and the USSR are undeniably good. A vital support to military expenditure, including in particular hi-tech nuclear extravagance, has been greatly weakened in both the Soviet

Union and the U.S. In the absence of Saddam Hussein, all other American military spending would have been in jeopardy. The military success in the Gulf has, indeed, greatly improved the morale and there with no doubt the fiscal prospects of our more compulsive warriors. There is, however, at least a chance that this will remain the case. The controlling condition here is not economics or foreign policy but anthropology. When the drums sound is the adjacent forest, the immediate tribal response is powerful, even inevitable. But it does not last: reason eventually takes over, which, quite possibly, is why the human species survives.

The end of the cold war and particularly the collapse of communism have made another contribution to a better world order. That is an end to the aggressive, paranoid and otherwise extravagantly irrelevant hope and concern to communism in the Third World. In the last 45 years Vietnam, Afghanistan, Zaire, Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, El Salvador and, of course, Cuba have all been the focus of such attention. Billions have been spent and hundreds of thousands of lives have been sacrificed in advancing the communist case or in protecting what, often by exceedingly loose usage, has been called democracy. From the U.S. we have deployed a vast army of agents, refugees from useful work in the Republic, to counter the threat of communism. A now exhaustive and often exhausting literature — some fiction, some non-fiction, some indistinguishable — has celebrated their exploits. Never explained or even contemplated was, to repeat, the nearly total irrelevance of this exercise.

Marx made the point and with emphasis: before communism there has to be capitalism. Only after its exfoliation, oppression and, as he emphasised, its socialising effect on the masses is socialism possible. In primitive peasant societies neither capitalism nor communism has meaning.

Visiting Vietnam in the early days of our disastrous involvement there, I was struck by the difficulty in telling a communist jungle from a capitalist jungle or even making that determination as to a rice paddy. Some 30 years ago on going to India as ambassador, I found a deep preoccupation in the State Department and especially in the Central Intelligence Agency with the thought that India might go communist. I invited a certain amount of criticism and possibly some suspicion as to my reliability on such matters for observing that for communism this would be a disaster for which not even the most relentless enemy of that system could really wish.

Now this long-lived insanity is at an end. The legions deployed by the CIA and its companion intelligence agencies elsewhere do not face un-

employment. It is in the nature of such occupation that function, even if not real, can still be imagined. But the conflict between the Soviet Union and the U.S., the ultimate justification, is over. An end to the paranoid concern about communism in the Third World is no slight step to a new and better world order. This is so even if, as in Panama and now the Middle East, or earlier by the British in the Falklands, new justifications for military adventure in the Third World emerge.

There is also the promise of a new role for the United Nations as part of a new world order, or this at least can be hoped. There is much there that needs to be changed. As from all persons of goodwill, the U.N. has long had my support. I've been often on its New York premises. Alas, however, I have never come away without a powerful impression of speeches and yet more speeches emphasising a worthy purpose — disarmament, economic development, human rights, women's rights, peaceful resolution of some dispute, much else — that were without any clear relation to practical result. I've had the impression that no action was really intended; here too the rhetoric was the reality. Nothing more was expected or asked.

Nonetheless there is now at least hope for change. No lon-

"We must remind ourselves that in this world there is no literate population that is poor and no illiterate population that is anything but poor. Let us have also in mind that in all countries war and civil conflict are peculiarly the opportunity that is accorded the ignorant."

ger on matters of some slight substance will the Americans and their allies be automatically arrayed on opposite sides and with the companion and inevitable veto in the Security Council. The Gulf war, with both of the superpowers in active or passive support, was, one cannot doubt, a manifestation of major change. And the U.S. government showed a concern for U.N. approval and support that was well beyond anything experienced in recent decades. This provided the basic case, not least for Americans, for the military intervention and war on the desert sands. Better that we had had such authority for our descent on Grenada and Panama.

But in anything that is to be called a new world order, one in which there is effective resolution of internal and external conflict and an effective attack on their causes, the U.N. must be a great deal more than it is now. It cannot, as in the Gulf war, be the justifying instrument of American policy. It must have a higher authority of its own. There must, in other words, be some surrender of sovereignty to the U.N., and not least by Washington.

Additionally, a difficult point, the U.N. must have the authority to end and reverse not alone aggression by one country against another but also mass slaughter and des-

truction within a country. An effective U.N. would, years ago, have taken over and arrested the internecine bestiality in Uganda and Beirut or, more recently, in Liberia. As the U.N. should exercise sovereignty, so it should have power when sovereignty is outrageously misused to suspend it. Modern mass horror now results, if anything less from international conflict than from internal conflict and massacre. The most elementary order is the need to stop internal butchery. Mention of the needed remedy, the suspension of grossly misused sovereignty, shows how far we have yet to go.

But there is need for still more. An effective world order would require international action to stop the arms trade — to stop the sale and purchase of the weapons with which, in a far from congenial way, people around the world, and notably in the poorest countries, are killing each other. The weapons with which the Iraqis and the Iranians engaged in mass murder in their enduring war were mostly supplied from abroad, as also those that the U.S. and the U.N. forces faced more recently in or over Kuwait and Iraq. No meaningful world order can tolerate such commercially sponsored euthanasia.

It would be a test of our American president committed to this new order were he

to lead or anyhow cooperate in a U.N. crackdown on the merchants and merchandise of death. But, alas, that test he has already failed. I quote from the start of the lead article in the New York Times of March 18, a few days after the proclamation of the new order: "The Bush administration is asking Congress to authorise a government agency to underwrite sales of military goods for the first time since the 1970s. After a long and divisive internal debate, the White House has come down on the side of American military contractors, whose business has been lagging because of American plans to reduce the size of the armed forces."

A new world order, if it is to have any meaning or effect, must also go beyond conflict and mass slaughter to their causes. And as to causes the empirical evidence is overwhelming. Violent death is peculiarly the fate of the poor. In the 45 years of the cold war no one got killed in direct confrontation between the two great powers, some casual accidents or executions possibly apart. Nor was there such death elsewhere in the affluent lands. The rich and the reasonably comfortable do not take readily to the idea of disciplined military slaughter. Whatever their religious commitment to a world to come, it is not a transition to be well-

comed or perhaps entirely to be trusted. The poor are far more available for armed demise; although the later prospect may be in doubt, it cannot compare too unfavourably with the present world. And more than adequately available are the voices calling for mass immolation in the name of political oppression, language, ethnic identity or, alas, religion.

Though it is the poor in the poor lands who are mobilised for death, the economically less fortunate elsewhere are also at risk. In the U.S. it was the least affluent of our citizens who went to the Gulf, and disproportionately it was members of the black minority. They were volunteers but for many, alas, because the armed services were the best — and for some the only — available escape from poverty. The offspring of the well endowed, not excluding those of parents who applauded the war, were not moved to join up in any significant number. Support for the war at my university, Harvard, did not extend to the point of anyone getting physically involved.

Anything that pretends to be called a new world order must address poverty as the prime source of world disorder. This means a continuing and enlarged flow of resources from the rich countries to the poor. Again from long experience I would like to see this centred on food production — soil and water management, fertiliser, grain hybrids — as the first essential. Far too often in the past we have considered steel mills, other great industrial enterprises and shiny airports the essence of economic development. They have been thoughtfully sited among illiterate and starving people.

The matter of education, made economically more respectable by the term "human investment," is especially to be stressed. A hundred years ago in Europe and the U.S., as also in Japan, popular education was seen as the essential key to economic and social progress. That has been forgotten. We must remind ourselves that in this world there is no literate population that is poor and no illiterate population that is anything but poor. Let us have also in mind that in all countries war and civil conflict are peculiarly the opportunity that is accorded the ignorant.

The launching of a strong drive for education in the undeveloped lands — large-scale teacher training, building of schools, the bringing of the brighter prospects en masse to the developed countries for instruction — is a truly challenging enterprise. Much easier the hydro-electric dams. But let there be no doubt: education is a prime essential. Mr. Bush has expressed the hope that in the U.S. he might be called the education president; it is a hope, alas, that remains with the oratory.

There remains as regards a new world order the most pressing question of all: it is that the world itself survive. This need has now taken a new, dangerous and as yet

largely unrecognised turn.

For decades arms negotiators from the Soviet Union and the U.S. have been meeting in Geneva. There has been a moderately prestigious, modestly paid and distinctly leisureed occupation from which they have derived the pecuniary satisfaction of knowing that they were dealing personally with the great issues of survival and death while they themselves have developed a kind of hard-boiled disconcert for mass immolation. As their efforts (so to speak) continued, so in only slightly less measure did the manufacture and emplacement of nuclear weapons. These are now distributed by the thousands over the U.S. and the Soviet Union and over and under the oceans. As sufficiently evident and observed they no longer arm nations in deeply ideological conflict. Again the end of the cold war. Now the overwhelming danger is that these weapons might fall into irresponsible and violent hands.

In the U.S. North Dakota is a land of wide horizons and widely sweeping plains. Those plains are pitted promiscuously with missile silos: North Dakota, if independent, would, it is said, be the third greatest nuclear power in the world. The danger that this state, its recurrent agrarian discontents notwithstanding, will seek independence in the near future is not great. I, for one, have similar hopes that the USSR, however federalised, will survive. But these weapons, so widely distributed in both countries, must surely now be gathered up and destroyed.

This is not a matter for leisurely negotiation; it is a matter for prompt and comprehensive action. In a new world order let there be a joint American-Soviet commission under U.N. auspices and with an utterly determined chairman and staff, whose task it would be to assemble and dispose of these lethal instruments of death.

It will be said by the practical men, those who have made their professional accommodation to their personal Armageddon, that this is surely impractical. Nothing is impractical that ensures human survival, nothing certainly that ensures against civil disturbance degenerating into nuclear war.

I conclude with a word in praise of President George Bush. When he speaks of a new world order, I cannot suppose that he has explored either personally or by bureaucratic command its meaning and its requirements. But perhaps there was a justifying instinct behind the words — a sense that this is the time to start thinking about a safer and better world. Maybe those of us who are so forced to thought owe him more than, ungenerously, we are inclined to concede. That, anyhow, in the president's own words, is my kinder, gentler suggestion.

J.K. Galbraith is Emeritus Professor of Economics at Harvard University. The article is reprinted from The Guardian.

Brotherhood

(Continued from page 1)

Even though spokesmen for the Brotherhood publicly deny any decline in their popularity and dismiss as "sneer and detractor campaigns" media reports about such "loss of support," observers and analysts agree that it was not only the Brotherhood Movement that suffered a setback in view of what happened in the Gulf. Other political groups also did, they said, but relative to their numbers, the Muslim Brotherhood, because it is largest, probably lost the biggest share.

Dr. Musa Keilani, the Arabic daily Ad-Dustour's deputy editor and author of several research papers on Islamic movements in Jordan, puts the percentage of "decline" as "something between 10 and 25 per cent."

"If we want to be conservative we would say 10 per cent," Dr. Keilani said, adding that that ratio "is similar to the decline in support for other political parties which allied themselves with Iraq during the crisis."

The Brotherhood identified itself with and bet on Iraq's victory, which reflected negatively on them when Iraq lost badly," Dr. Keilani added.

An official at the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs maintained that attendance in mosques "has dropped by 40 to 50 per cent." The official, who did not want to be named, pointed out that "this was the result of the general demoralised mood that gripped the country after the end of the war and Iraq's compliance with all U.N.-imposed resolutions against it." Many, but not all, mosque goers back Islamic political groups, the largest of which is the Brotherhood. Some of the movement's supporters, interviewed by the Jordan Times, expressed disappointment over the Brotherhood's lack of practical support for Iraq during the war. "They have shown us that they are only good at talking," one of them said.

A cabinet minister recently told the Jordan Times that the government "was able to neutralise the opposition by incorporating them into the government," in an apparent reference to the Brotherhood.

In rejecting these claims, however, the movement's spiritual leader, Sheikh Mohammad Abdul Rahman Khalifa, said his group's decision to join Mr. Saddam's government was "an emergency measure."

He added that the decision to support participation of the movement in the government was the result of what "we saw as a glimpse of hope with which this marginal participation the Brotherhood could share in serving this country positively through what is available to us legally and politically."

He denied claims that the Brotherhood has abandoned its calls for political and economic reform in the country, saying that "if solutions to certain economic and political problems have been delayed that does not mean the Muslim Brotherhood has discarded them or conceded on them."

On backing for Iraq, Sheikh Khalifa told the Jordan Times that Baghdad's call to linkage between a solution to the Iraq-Kuwait crisis and ending the Israeli occupation of Palestine was the source of that support.

"Jordan is closely connected to the Palestine problem. And when the Brotherhood felt that Iraq and its army understood the threat of the presence of a Zionist entity in the blood-thirsty country that calls itself Israel," the movement was of the opinion of supporting Iraq because it has the power to stop Zionism at the limits of freedom and human rights," Sheikh Khalifa

who is a practising sharia lawyer, pointed out.

The movement perceives its stance during the Gulf crisis as an anti-Israel position rather than one siding with Iraq. "We are not regretful of our clear position against the Zionist occupiers and those who supported it. Time will be the judge," Sheikh Khalifa said.

Other Brotherhood spokesmen lashed out at journalists who wrote articles on the group's "declining support." Writing in the movement's new weekly publication Al Rahab, the unnamed political editor of the magazine called for "thoughtful reading" into the "undemocratic" analysis of the writers.

He described one Reuters report on the issue as "provocative" and said it lacked credibility because it did not provide statistics to support its argument. The editor implicitly also criticised the Jordan Times for carrying it and cast doubt on Reuters' credentials as an impartial news agency.

Defending the group's position on Iraq, Al Rahab wrote: "It is as if the Brotherhood is in control of armies, bombers, tanks and missiles and did not move them to support Iraq."

In reply to another article that appeared recently in the London-based Arabic daily in Al Hayat, in which the movement was called "Jordan's Likud" because of its uncompromising position on the Palestine issue, an unsigned statement by the Brotherhood said: "We don't know what is so shameful about the Brotherhood's stance rejecting any dealings with the Zionist body in any form and insisting on the liberation of all Palestine from the sea to the river, which is a position shared by many forces, Palestinian, Arab and Islamic, in all parts of the world."

"We would have liked (the writer of the article) to call things by their name: 'The Muslim Brothers

are Muslim Brothers and there is no need to call them Jordan's Likud," the statement added.

The writer of the article asks how the Brothers can reconcile their participation in the government through holding five posts in a government of 22 members with their "spiritual leadership" which holds a position that contradicts the peaceful solution that the government believes in," the statement went on.

"The Brotherhood poses a question back (to the writer) on how he assumed that ministers who are not members of the Brotherhood must accept a peaceful solution. The truth is that a number of non-Brotherhood ministers share the same stance with the Brotherhood ministers in rejecting peaceful solution proposals... so should every minister who holds a different opinion resign?"

The statement said that the most dangerous element in the (writer's) article is "the underlying dangerous hints which may shed light on the civil plans against the march of democracy in our dear country."

It concluded by saying: "The writer assumes that the United States cannot force the Zionist enemy to apply international legitimacy unless the Jordanian government forces the radical parties in Jordan to accept a peaceful solution (and we do not think he means any other than the Brothers)."

In the meantime, observers and analysts say that the number of people attending Friday's rally may put an end to claims on either side on the issue of continued popularity or not.

"The Brotherhood is holding this rally to show the sceptics that it still enjoys power on the popular level," said the former minister who was interviewed by the Jordan Times. "But we must also understand that whatever the turnout it

would not change our belief that some decline has taken place."

Rebels

(Continued from page 1)

Baghdad Radio carried a statement from an official spokesman after a meeting between President Saddam and key officials saying the government was certain most civilians fleeing the cities "did not help the traitors and saboteurs."

The statement said the government crushed the rebellion "to fulfill its responsibilities to the legal system... and free the civilians from the crimes of armed gangs."

Sulaimaniya was a stronghold of the Kurds' best known recent leader, Mustapha Barazani, whose son Masoud heads the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), one of several groups campaigning for autonomy from Baghdad. The town has long had a reputation of being the first to rise and among the last to fall in decades of Kurdish revolts.

International relief agencies said at least two million Iraqis were believed to be fleeing.

"Planes and helicopters are bombing roads leading to Syria, Turkey and Iran, which are clogged with hundreds of thousands of Iraqis fleeing on foot from the savagery of the regime," said an opposition spokesman in Damascus.

Iran said Tuesday that hundreds of Iraqi Kurds were streaming towards its borders.

The Iranian news agency IRNA reported that an 85-kilometre convoy of vehicles carrying Kurds was crawling towards

the snow-bound mountains on the Iranian frontier.

At least half a million refugees were moving towards Iran's Bakhtaran province northeast of Baghdad and many were risking deaths from cold or lack of food on their journey through the mountain passes, IRNA said.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani accused the United States and its allies of indifference towards the plight of Iraqis.

"It is surprising that they (coalition forces) are overlooking such heart-rending tragedies with an air of indifference," IRNA quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as telling visiting Swiss Foreign Minister Rene Felber.

The remark was the closest Iran has come to calling for outright allied intervention in the unrest.

Baghdad has all but crushed the rebellions which swept the Shiite south and the Kurdish north of the country.

In southern Iraq, IRNA said government forces continued to fight rebels with helicopters and heavy guns in Basra and nearby cities.

Explosions could be heard across the border in the Iranian port of Khorramshahr, it said.

Iraq said Wednesday that rebels damaged by "parasitic saboteurs" in the towns of Karbala and Najaf in the south.

Religious Affairs Minister Abdullah Fadhl told IRNA that rebels damaged the shrines' structures, carpets and manuscripts. "The ministry wishes to carry out the restoration work as soon as possible," he told IRNA.

Dagger-making — a dying craft

By Debbie Lovatt

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Up a narrow street on the downtown side of Wadi Surour is Tahir Abu Mohaisen's tiny one-room workshop. Every day — except Fridays — for 16 hours the 62-year-old craftsman makes swords and daggers.

"I love my work. I made my first dagger when I was eight. My father had been taught by his father and then I learned the trade from him," said Mr. Abu Mohaisen proudly.

"Life was harder in the old days. I never went to school and I can't read or write," he chuckled.

"My grandfather started the business in 1800. He travelled around the country making and selling his goods. In those times the main trading centres were Tafleeh, Karak, Ma'an, Ruweished and Amman. I was very young when we came to settle in Amman in 1932," said Mr.

Abu Mohaisen whilst piling onto a desk many examples of his work.

"In the old times my grandfather used to make swords and repair guns, as well as make daggers and knives," said the craftsman holding up to the sunlight an old dagger about 50 centimetres long. "This is 200 years old," he contended.

"The knives and daggers are like the ones the bedouins used in the past to kill sheep or defend themselves from wild animals or their enemies," Mr. Abu Mohaisen explained, obviously enjoying the gruesome picture he was conjuring up of a way of life now imitated by moviemakers and actors.

He continued: "Now tourists buy the knives for ornaments or souvenirs from tourist shops in town or in the big hotels. Not many Jordanians buy my things and I don't export because this is only a small business."

One silver dagger decorated with copper and silver beading takes one day to make. But daggers made from sterling silver, which is less pliable than regular silver, and with a hilt carved from sheep or ox horn, take five days.

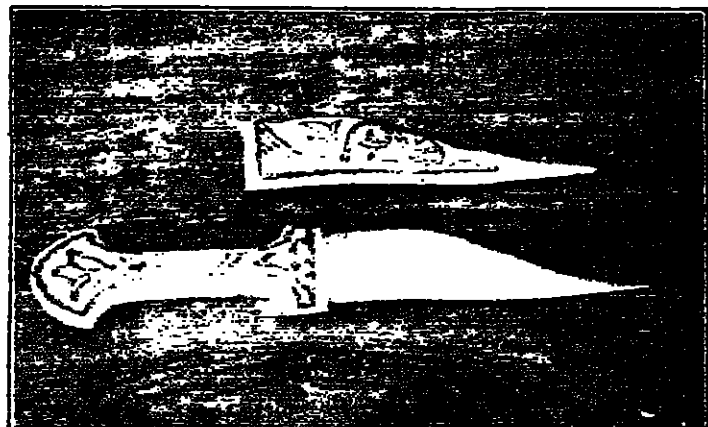
First the blade is crudely cut from metal, heated and then beaten into shape. It is filed and polished and then fixed to the hilt which is made from a single block of wood or horn. These two pieces are fixed together and encased with silver foil and copper foil before being decorated with engravings and silver beading. The sheath follows the same process as the hilt but, horn is not used for it, only wood.

Mr. Abu Mohaisen uses silver imported from Germany, Yugoslavia, Italy and sometimes Britain by a large trading company. "I don't import it myself because I only use very small amounts," explained the knife-maker.

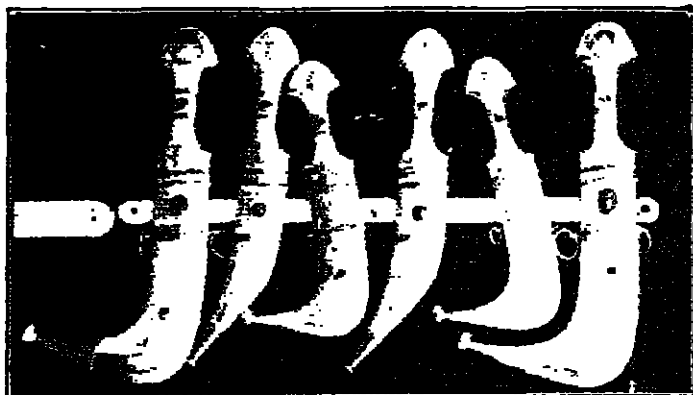
Like other businesses in Jordan, this one has suffered from the Gulf crisis and consequent drop in tourism.



Tahir Abu Mohaisen working on a new knife.



An unfinished sterling silver knife with the design to be engraved marked out.



Daggers decorated with emblems and in-laid with semi-precious stones on display at the workshop.

Magic in the shadow of the Pyramids

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — It is not easy to witness an Egyptian exorcism. You must first go through a complicated process, involving secret telephone numbers and meetings with far Greek women in embroidered "djellabas" and overweight Syrians who look at you with pity — not because they think you foolish to believe in the powers of exorcism, but because they sympathise with you that you should need their services.

In Egypt, exorcism is strictly forbidden, both by the civil and by the religious authorities. The police distrust it, seeing in it a way of hoodwinking people to part with their money. The imams condemn it, since its power comes from hidden and hostile forces.

And yet, Mahmoud is a haj. He is young-looking, very dark, with a big black moustache and shiny slicked-down hair. He looks a bit like Mephistopheles as seen in books from the Middle Ages. He dresses in dark colours, in a blue that is almost black. He is thin, with disproportionately large hands that are adorned with gold signet rings of dubious taste. "In the Underworld," he says, "I have a demon sister who obeys me and helps me. For a while, she was my wife, but I asked her to free me from our bond so I could marry a woman from this world. She agreed, on the condition that my new wife spend some time in the Underworld with her so she could learn to serve me according to the rules."

His young wife sits beside him, silent and still. She seems a pretty woman, though she is veiled in accordance with the strictest laws of Islam. She confirms what her husband has just said: Yes, she spent a week in the Underworld, but she is not allowed to speak of her extraordinary experience. Mahmoud resumes his explanation: "Thanks to my sister, the demon Ashar, I have the power to undo any witchcraft and to break any spell. Let's make no mistake; there are magicians who use the demonic powers to harm people, for financial gain. They use hair, menstrual blood, sperm and vaginal fluid to cast their spells. Under their orders they have the filthy demons who live wherever water flows into the sewers. Bathrooms are their meeting

places. Incidentally, you should be careful never to take fright in a room where there is water; the fear will open up a breach in your soul and the impure demons will enter into you."

As he talks, Mahmoud unwinds a long green thread and ties one end round the wrist of the woman who has asked to be exorcised. She says her husband has left her because of a curse put on her by his family. The other end of the long piece of string trails off into the apartment. A child, a small boy 6 or 7-year-old is playing with his tricycle and making a lot of noise. All around, people are drinking tea and talking about the weather. If it were not for the clouds of incense billowing out from a tripod, it could be a family gathering in any middle-class neighbourhood.

"I am now going to call up the demons I have at my service," says Mahmoud. "And I will order them to bring here the evil spell that was cast on this woman three years ago."

The woman, wearing a blue djellaba, steps seven times over a white plate on which have been placed two lighted candles. As she does so, she murmurs: "In the name of the all-powerful and merciful Lord." In her hands she holds three eggs, which she herself bought this morning, and which Mahmoud has covered with cabalistic symbols. Standing at one end of the room, the exorcist calls out invocations in a powerful voice. "Put the eggs on the plate," he shrieks suddenly.

"And cover them with your left hand." The woman obeys. She is shaking from head to foot and her brow is covered with beads of perspiration.

"King of the demons, obey my voice and come here now. Come, together with your servants. Come all of you, and bring with you all the evil that has been done to this woman. If it is at the bottom of the sea, bring it. If it is at the top of a mountain, bring it. If it is tied to the branch of a tree, bring it. If it is buried in a grave, bring it. And now," cries the exorcist in a terrible voice. "Break the eggs! Break them! Smash the eggs with your right hand! Smash them seven times!"

Breathing heavily, almost in tears, the woman breaks the eggs and smashes the gooey mess. From her fingers emerges a shapeless object, grayish, spattered with yellow and white. "God our saviour," murmurs the woman, "All-powerful God!" From the bits of broken shell she extracts a big bundle of cotton, a lock of hair, a piece of paper folded in four and a tooth. "My tooth," she says, sobbing now. "That's my tooth. I recognise it. I had it taken out several years ago." The hair too, long, sleek and chestnut-coloured, seems to belong to her. Deeply upset, the woman places a packet containing 200 Egyptian pounds (\$70) on the glowing embers of the tripod: The demons get their payment from the smoke of burning banknotes.

"Now," says Mahmoud. "Put the items of evil in a pot. Put the paper, the cotton, the tooth, the hair in a pot, fill it with sand and cover the sand with the ashes of the burnt money. Then you must go to the bank of the Nile, take a boat and, when you reach the middle of the river, throw the pot into the water. Only then will you be free from the evil spell ... And your husband will come back to you, more in love with you than ever."

The woman nods, entranced. She already seems calmer, and buoyed up by a deep faith she looks quite handsome.

Even the most skeptical onlooker is shaken. The objects — the paper, the cotton, the tooth and the hair — were far too large to have been contained inside the eggs. In any case, the eggs had been carefully examined beforehand, and everyone had agreed they seemed to be normal in every respect. And when the exorcism reached its climax, Mahmoud himself was at least 15 feet away from the woman and the eggs. "What is there to question?" said the exorcist. "In this world, there are many things that men do not understand. Especially educated men."



A woman seeking exorcism has been instructed to bring a plate of eggs for use in the ceremony.

you. Is this woman happy?" he murmurs. "If she is happy, turn to the right."

Slowly, moved by what appears to be some hidden force, the book pivots on the key and turns to the left. Sind lets out a cry and drops the book. "Don't be afraid," says Mahmoud, putting her finger back into the key. "Has someone cast a spell on this woman? If the answer is yes, turn to the left." The Koran turns slowly to the left. Sind shakes her head in disbelief and fury. "You don't believe it?" says Mahmoud. "You love a man who does not love you, although he pretends to. But your greatest problem is your son, who is very unhappy at this moment."

"Who told you all this?" demands Sind, clearly upset. "Come with me." She obeys and follows Mahmoud into an adjoining room. In her hand, she takes three eggs, covered with symbols. Mahmoud prays intensely, reciting a breathless and incomprehensible litany. "Place the eggs on the ground," he says suddenly, in an urgent tone. Sind puts the eggs on a plate which the owner of the apartment has hurriedly brought the exorcist. "Break the eggs!" cries Mahmoud. The sound of crunching eggshells indicates that Sind has done as he bids. The only other sound is the click of the camera of photographer Jean Claude who is hoping to capture the moment of exorcism on film.

"But what's this?" moans Sind, her hands covered with a mess of yolks and white, from which emerges a big blackish clot, far bigger than an egg. With admirable composure, Sind turns it over and over in her hands, examines it and unfolds it. It is in fact a piece of paper, perhaps parchment, covered with mysterious symbols and enclosing a piece of cloth covered with yellow and red stains. The stench it gives off is overwhelming.

"Now you are liberated from your hopeless love ... and your son is safe," intones Mahmoud.

The lights, which had been dimmed, are turned back on again. Everything is back to normal. The haj lights a cigarette. Jean Claude puts away his camera, disappointed at having been unable to persuade the exorcist to pose for a photograph. ("It's useless," Mahmoud had said. "You would have found nothing on your film.") Sind has reverted to being a sophisticated woman, the habituee of intellectual circles in London, Paris and Cairo. People are once again speaking about the weather. The evidence of the spells has been disposed of in the bathroom. The Greek woman laughs, well pleased. "What a stink!" she exclaims.

The smell — indescribable because it is unlike any other — lingers on, cloying and nauseating, the only thing that remains to remind us that this bizarre Egyptian exorcism really happened — World News Link.

Englishman's castle seeks new owner

By Charlotte Cooper
Reuters

ESHER, England — Looking for your perfect home? Ever thought of turning a ruin into your dream castle?

New is your chance — some of Britain's historic buildings are up for sale.

For a mere £450,000 (\$860,000) you could be the proud owner of Waynesflete Tower, a 15th century house in Esher on the southwest outskirts of London.

As owner you would be in good company — for Waynesflete tower formed a leafy riverside retreat in the 1500s for England's King Henry VIII, famed for his six wives, and a tryst for the spinster Queen Elizabeth I and her lover, according to its estate agents.

"Dogg up" and old house was popular with Britons when property boomed in the 1980s but hundreds of historically important houses across the country still urgently need renovation, according to the charity group Save Britain's Heritage.

Save campaigns for the preservation and reuse of historic buildings it considers important to Britain's heritage. It recently published a report called nobody's home detailing some 150 derelict places in need of rescue. "This is the tip of the iceberg," Clare Norman, the report's author, said at Save's office in Battersea, London.

Catalogued with Waynesflete Tower are countless old churches, mansions, an 1880 railway station decorated with Victorian iron work and a 400-year-old

barn. The charity has published similar reports before and managed to rescue some buildings.

Andrew Blagden of Hampton Estate Agents in Esher said that during the 1980s housing boom everybody wanted to "do up" property. "If you ploughed £100,000 (\$190,000) at present rates) into a house — wisely — you would probably sell it two years on for a £200,000 (\$380,000) profit."

Now the property market has slumped and historic homes are harder to sell — especially the less attractive buildings.

Restoring houses can be fraught with problems. Potential buyers can be put off by the expense and the volume of work needed. Building restrictions are a headache if the property is old or important enough to qualify for government protection known as listing.

Listing is designed to retain the building's character and some, like Waynesflete Tower, cannot be knocked down. Local authority permission is needed for any alterations, external or internal — even down to improving the electrical wiring.

Waynesflete itself has layer upon layer of architectural history. While the original structure dates back to 1478, one recent owner, a 1930s film actress, added a 1930s wood panelling lift and a pink bathroom suite complete with art deco taps.

Preserving character in renovation is important. "You've got to get real enthusiasts who've got the historic nature of the building at heart," Norman said.

Amateur medievalist Roy

Grant, seeking a suitable setting for his medieval art collection, took on the conversion challenge independent of Save. He converted a derelict 12th century Norman chapel into a replica medieval manor.

The church, now St Oswald's Hall on the outskirts of York — a former Viking settlement in northern England — was built at the time of the Christian crusades in the Middle East.

Grant put St Oswald's to commercial use, running musical evenings, medieval dramas and feasts using medieval recipes.

The conversion took two years and required the present Queen Elizabeth's permission because the building was once a church. The queen is titular head of the Church of England.

Now St Oswald's is up for sale for £250,000 (\$477,500). Grant has found a retirement project — a house he wants to restore in the ancient Italian town of Assisi.

Blagden says there will always be demand for unusual property in good condition. "I've even sold Victorian water towers," he adds.

Why do the British love to convert old places? Hard to say, but Save's Norman said: "We're not a great nation of modernists who want to live in a wacky modern house."

"It's nice to think you've taken something and made it better and kept it for future generations," she added.

Said Blagden: "People love to be surrounded with history and charm, and the fact that they bang their head every night when they go through a low door — it's all just part of living in an old house."

U.K. teenagers are not rebels like their parents

By Peter Millership
Reuters

LONDON — British teenagers are more interested in making money than rebelling against the establishment and espousing great causes, according to a survey by one of Britain's top banks.

It found that teenagers generally shun walking on the wild side of life like many of their parents did in the era of the Beatles, the mini-skirt and a string of writers called "The Angry Young Men."

"They reject teenage icons and stereotyping, and unlike their parents' youth generation there are no rebels and very few causes," said Frank Wilson, youth marketing manager of the Trustee Savings Bank (TSB).

TSB sought the opinions of youngsters who entered their teens during the 11-year premiership of Margaret Thatcher — high priestess of thrift, hard work and self-help.

The bank discovered a "common sense" generation of teenagers who want to be independent and frequently use cash rather than drift into credit.

The survey of 2,700 youngsters aged 14 to 17 showed they appreciated cleverness and humour in adverts but were cynical of gimmicks.

They were more likely to spend money on drinks and clothes than on records, tapes, CDs and the cinema.

"School-leavers positively reject the idea of credit and overdrafts and even cheque

books can represent a loss of control," Wilson said.

"Cash is the favoured method of payment with teenagers preferring to make frequent visits to the cash dispenser to withdraw small amounts."

The pursuit of wealth figured highly in the teenagers' approach to life.

"Time and time again school-leavers interviewed told us being in control of their money gave them greater self-confidence to tackle life in the adult world," said Wilson.

"Teenagers recognise that they are part of a do-it-yourself society," Wilson said. "They want to stand on their own two feet and do not expect state hand-outs as a matter of course."

Love thy neighbour — or move

By Maha Addasi

You can choose a piece of land in a deserted area and build a house on it; away from people, noise and pollution, where you would savour true privacy. Until one day you blink and what materialises almost before your very eyes is the pop, pop, pop of buildings being constructed near and around your house. Before long the building dust settles, the screeching bulldozers disappear, the droning of cement barrels subside, and the boisterous workers are no longer there. Soon an entire community finds its way into your privacy arena. Long gone the days when you sipped coffee staring at a beautiful view with nothing standing between you and the horizon.

We hate to break it to you, but your days as a self-choosing hermit are over. That is not the half of it though, because with this newly founded "colony" you wake up one day and lo and behold you have neighbours!

That is when your troubles begin, because now you will be flung into a trying experience. You are robbed of your privacy in many ways. From now on noise pollution is her to stay.

A friend of mine describes her neighbours like this: "They have at least eight children per family all below school age, and they are only happy when they do things like swing my kitten by the tail and spin it around. They never tire like the alkaline battery, but if someone is ever sick there are plenty more children to go around. That is not all. When our trees bear fruit, they know just the right time to pick the apples and pears, sometimes just a couple of hours before us. It's like weeding the garden only they leave the weeds."

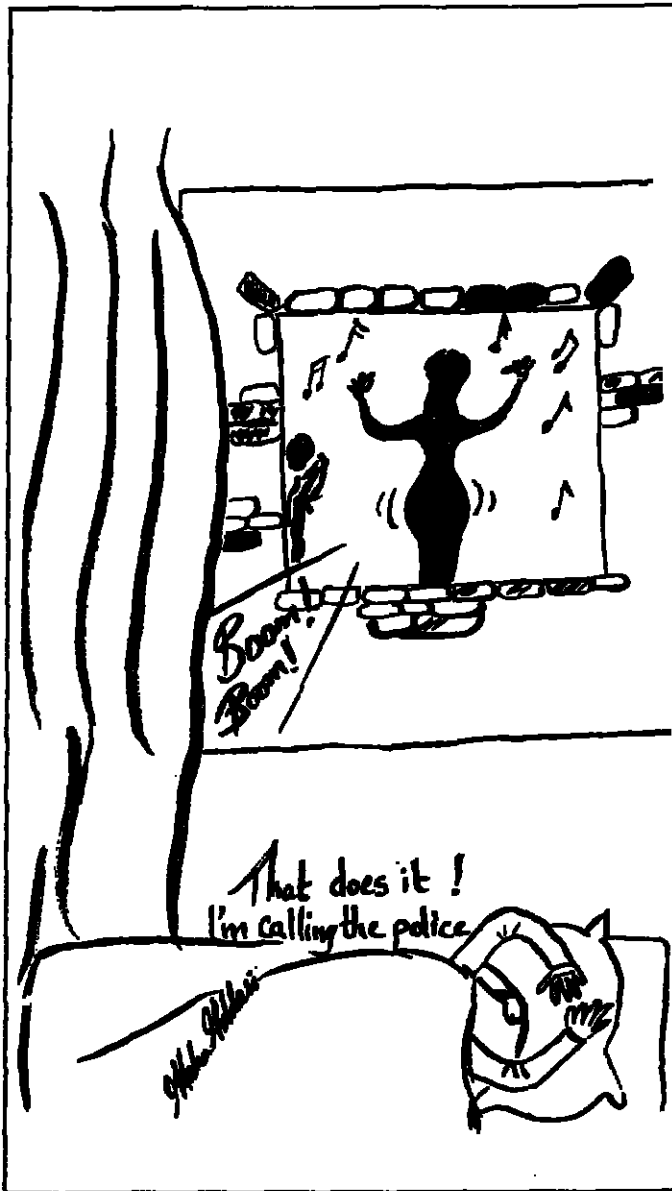
"And of course their glass sharp shrieking while they're playing has become part of our daily 'special effects'."

Another man said: The saying that goes, "just because you are not paranoid doesn't mean they are not out to get you" applies to me perfectly.

"I sometimes feel I will go insane. If I don't hear any kids screaming I think I've gone deaf. When I see them climbing on my garden wall I get nasty ideas like placing some barbed wire around the house. The ultimate intrusion of my privacy comes when the neighbour decides to park the car in my parking spot. I just hit the roof and stay in a bad mood for as much as a week."

"My neighbours are unique," said one lady. "They can irritate us for days on end, but when they need to borrow a hammar or something they have no qualms about knocking on our door and asking. Sometimes I feel like hitting them with the hammar so that maybe they can get the hint that it is worth it to buy their own tools."

It is no wonder that religions stress the "love thy neighbour" part, because some neighbours can try your patience enough so that you can barely tolerate them, let alone love them.



There are, of course, neighbours who turn into life-time friends, and friends who turn into life-time enemies when they live next door.

Unfortunately there are no long term solutions but believe me nomads did not move around a great deal because of the scarcity of water. Somehow there is always that nagging feeling that neighbours had a lot to do with it. So for temporary relief, do what the nomads did. Move. If you cannot "love thy neighbour."

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 4

8:30 Day By Day

What I Did For Love

Chris is in love with Christine who happens to be 4 years his senior and unresponsive. But dad intervenes with a lecture on the facts of life.

9:10 Black Forest Clinic

The Harmless Lie

Dr. Bergman has to deal with a doctor who happens to be a failure in medicine and so it takes a harmless lie to do it.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

The Tin Star

Starring: Henry Fonda and Anthony Perkins

Bounty hunter Morgan comes to town and the town folks don't like him too much, but soon they realise his value to their town.

Friday, April 5

8:30 Night Court

The young judge, Harold, surprises everyone with his youthful behaviour and attitude, but the biggest surprise is when this method of judging works.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 Berjacer

Thanks For Everything

Mary's rich husband, Peter, disappears, later a charged body is found with his identification card on it. But Berjacer doesn't buy the link and seeks the very much alive Peter.

Saturday, April 6

8:30 No Job For A Lady

There should be a law against it

Gene, happy about her right to introduce a bill in the House of Commons, tries hard to, but, alas, it is a tough matter.

9:00 Encounter

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

Coming Out Alive

Starring: Helen Shaver

Isabel's husband kidnaps her son and when the police fails to solve this case, Isabel hires a professional to do the job.

Sunday, April 7

8:30 Mother And Son

The Money

Arthur discovers that his mother is in possession of a big amount of money stashed somewhere in the house. Now the situation requires his intervention.

9:10 All Our Children

School Days

This interesting documentary deals with children's first entry into the schooling system and examines children's experiences from different countries.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Paradise

The Secret

Mr. Gant is a dishonest man living in Paradise. He gets killed after a disagreement with Ethan and now Ethan has to find the killer to clear his name.

Monday, April 8

8:30 Golden Girls

Blanche decides to become a writer. There is nothing wrong with that, but, what about the inspiration?

9:10 Inside Story

American millionaire John is back in his original country England, and is determined to buy the Sunday Register newspaper from its owner who is low on cash.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Derrick

Herr Hosner is murdered and suspicion centres around a thief who was unfortunate enough to be working that night. Derrick's investigation puts things right.

Tuesday, April 9

8:30 Charles In Charge

Sarah visits her cousins, there she finds a Romanian guest and realises that his stay is doing the family some good.

9:10 Documentary

New Zealand — The Rose And The Dragon

A visit to New Zealand, the land of volcanoes, and herds of sheep, fish and the breathtaking natural scenery of its islands. And that is not all we are going to enjoy and learn about New Zealand.

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Film

Wednesday, April 10

8:30 After Henry

Wedding Bells

The granddaughter of one of our grandmother's friends is getting married. That's an occasion our grandmother always likes.

9:10 Our House

First Impressions

Mother and daughter learn that first impressions can be quite deceiving.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Love And Hate

After winning the election, Joanne's former husband intensifies his efforts to win back his daughter, and even plots to murder his ex-wife.

Weekend Crossword

TESTING
By Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

1 Darn!

2 Swampy relative

3 Malay boats

4 Doct

5 Repeat

6 Female vampire

7 Sir — Richardson

8 Product

9 What is landmark

10 Can 200 steps

11 Bars of a region

12 Strong winds

13 School book

14 Ancient people

15 Frank's instrument

16 Reman

17 Reach

18 Council

19 Motion back and forth

20 Down

1 No nation

2 Leaving abhor

3 Gen — encumbrance

4 Common word

5 Standards in an orchestra

6 Jupiter's

7 The queens

8 Water Kingdom

9 Came out on top

10 Knapthole's home

11 Cigar shaped

12 Less experienced

13 Belling sounds

14 Most terse

15 Tropical nut

16 Footnote abhor

17 Overwise

18 Bring up

19 Coastal birds

20 Mergat

41 Uners without thinking

42 What's the title

43 Autobiography

44 Gold SP

45 Fabled birds

46 Old Eng. bard

47 Dr. As

48 Howard and Ely

49 Arctic bird

50 Name two friends

51 Member of the

52 Slave Lawrence

53 Member of the

54 Who's Mrs

55 Slave Lawrence

56 Member of the

57 Slave Lawrence

58 Sounded harshly

59 Anthony and

60 Barbara

61 White Bird

62 Jogs

63 Street tap

64 Iron part

65 Union general

66 More slummy

67 More slummy

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69 More slummy

70 More slummy

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Profits of Credit Suisse fall by third

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Credit Suisse, Switzerland's third-largest commercial bank, has posted a 31 per cent drop in net profit in 1990.

Net profit fell to million Swiss francs (\$399 million) last year from 783 million francs (\$580 million) in 1989, the bank said.

Consequently, Credit Suisse said it would propose cutting its dividend on 1990 earnings. It didn't specify how much.

The bank attributed the drop in net profit to a sharp decline in earnings from securities trading.

Credit Suisse Chairman Robert Jeker described the decline as exceptional, and forecast that 1991 earnings would return to "the good levels we achieved in 1989."

Cash flow of Credit Suisse, a unit of C.S. Holding was down 20 per cent last year at 1.18 billion francs (\$1.09 billion).

Atari may build computers in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S.-based Atari Corp. plans to invest \$150 million to make personal computers and electronic games in Israel if the government invests in producing components, the industry ministry said Tuesday.

"This is a breakthrough in foreign investment," ministry director-general Zvi Koren told Israel radio.

But he said the Atari proposal depended on the establishment of factories to make parts for the Atari products, such as printed circuit boards and software, and serve other computer and electronic firms.

Such a support network would cost \$75 to \$100 million, the ministry said. Koren said the cabinet could discuss the investment proposal as soon as next week.

"The government is not giving more money. It is giving guarantees for loans. If the industry is successful, then it will not cost the government anything. In the event the industry fails, the government will share the losses," he said.

The proposal would be a boost to foreign investment in Israel, sorely needed to help the country absorb an influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

It also coincides with Israel's desire to develop export-oriented industries, particularly in the high-tech field.

Atari's investment would be \$150 million and the plant's projected sales would be \$150 million a year, the ministry said. It would initially employ 600 people increasing to 1,000 within five years.

Atari's plan to transfer some operations from Taiwan to Israel indicates it wants to use Israel's free trade agreement with the European Community. To qualify for duty-free trade, the product must include Israeli-made parts.

The ministry believes the related industries would employ 2,000 people and have an export potential of \$300 million to \$500 million.

Recession eats at Fortune 500 corporations

NEW YORK (AP) — The recession dogged the U.S. biggest companies last year, but General Motors Corp. (G.M.) stayed No. 1 despite \$2 billion in losses, Fortune magazine said in its annual list of 500 top corporations.

A competing ranking by Forbes magazine of what it calls the "most powerful" American companies ignored G.M. entirely because the automaker didn't make any money in 1990.

The weakened economy was the dominant theme in the rankings. Fortune said half of the 50 largest industrial companies on its list lost money or earned less. Overall, Fortune 500 profits fell 11.7 per cent, even though sales rose 6.1 per cent.

G.M. with over \$126 billion in revenues, retained the top spot despite a 0.8 per cent drop in sales. Ford Motor Co. slipped to No. 3 and Chrysler Corp. tumbled three spots to No. 11, reflecting a sour performance by the auto industry.

Fortune bases its list on total sales and rates only industrial companies. The magazine also compiles separate rankings of the companies by profits, assets, stockholder equity and other financial indicators.

Exxon Corp. rose to second place in sales on the Fortune list. Completing the top 10 were International Business Machines Corp. (IBM), Mobil Corp., General Electric Co., Philip Morris Inc., Texaco Inc., Dupont and Chevron Corp.

Forbes also ranks 500 companies by sales, profits, assets and market value. To distinguish itself from Fortune, it does a composite ranking across all categories to determine the "super 50."

On the composite list, General Electric Co. replaced G.M. as Forbes' "most powerful" com-

pany, followed by Exxon, IBM, Philip Morris, American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT&T), Mobil, Chevron, Dupont, Ford and Amoco Corp.

AT&T was not on Fortune's list because it is not an industrial company. The Forbes list includes service companies, retailers, financial institutions and utilities in addition to manufacturers.

The lists showed how the recession touched major sectors of the economy.

Sales sank 96 per cent among transportation equipment companies in the Fortune 500, 79 per cent in textiles, 51 per cent in building materials, 11 per cent in metals, and 27 per cent in motor vehicles and parts.

G.M. lost \$1,986 billion to finish 173rd in profits. Ford made \$860 million — a 79 per cent decline — and Chrysler reported just \$68 million in earnings, about as much as No. 186 Lockett Corp., which makes adhesives.

Occidental Petroleum Corp., which after founder Armand Hammer died announced a huge restructuring charge to pay for ailing projects, lost \$1.7 billion but held on to No. 16 on the Fortune list.

Wang Laboratories Inc. lost \$716 million and dropped 22 places to 169th. General Dynamics Corp. fell to 18th from 11th after losing \$578 million. Bethlehem Steel Corp. lost \$161 million and slipped to 106th from 99th.

The Gulf crisis and resulting rise in oil prices helped the petroleum refining industry stay healthy, with profits 32.6 per cent higher.

Saudis said to discourage dealings with some banks

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has asked domestic banks to think twice about dealing with a token number of foreign banks which treated them badly during the Gulf crisis, Saudi-based bankers have said.

But they said the instructions, which were given verbally to the kingdom's 12 commercial banks last month, was not an official blacklisting and would have little impact on the six foreign banks named.

Saudi financial authorities intended mainly to signal their displeasure with the way many international banks reacted to the crisis by singling out a few which were the first to arbitrarily cut credit lines to the area, the bankers said.

The affected banks were Japan's Sanwa Bank Ltd and Tokai Bank Ltd, the Royal Bank of Canada, the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of Taiwan and the Taiwan-based International Commercial Bank of China.

"There is nothing official, nothing in writing," said a managing director of one of the kingdom's nine joint venture banks. "They simply contacted us and said these six banks treated Saudi banks very badly during the crisis and we think you should think twice about dealing with them."

"It's not being taken very seriously. It's just a sign that SAMA (The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency) won't take

things lying down... they want to make their displeasure known," a general manager of one of the kingdom's biggest banks said.

All Gulf-based banks were hurt by a loss of international confidence after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

SAMA, like other central banks in the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — asked Saudi banks in August to provide lists of names of firms which were quickest to cut credit lines and refuse to do business with them.

The other GCC members, apart from Kuwait, affected by the crisis — Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — have not taken follow-up action on the lists, Gulf-based bankers said.

Senior bankers in Saudi Arabia said they would continue to deal with the six banks singled out for disapproval if they needed to but would try to give the business to others. None of the six were major players in the area, they said.

"Business is business. Unless there is an official black list I will deal with any of these banks if I need their business," one banker said.

"However, I'm going to choose someone else who was more reasonable during the crisis if I have a choice," he added.

Saudi bankers said most inter-

national banks reacted negatively to them during the Gulf crisis but many were willing to restore credit lines or other kinds of business they had suspended after discussing the issue.

The six banks named were slowest to respond and some had even refused to accept letters of credit or even \$1,000 drafts from their clients during the crisis, the bankers said.

"SAMA is hoping that if anything like this ever happens again, banks will not be so quick to cut off their relations," one Saudi banker said.

"But I don't think it will last very long. These six banks will be very keen to make amends," he said.

A spokesman for Sanwa Bank in the Middle East denied that it had ever decided to formally suspend credit lines to Saudi banks during the crisis. Saudi banks were continuing to place large amounts of money with Sanwa, he said.

"Sanwa headquarters never gave instructions to its branches to suspend credit lines to Saudi banks and did not refuse to take money from them... but individual dealers not familiar with the Middle East may have done this," he said.

"We are still taking large amounts of deposits from Saudi banks — nothing has changed," he added.

U.S. factory orders drop for 4th month in February

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders for factory goods fell in February for the fourth straight month, the government said Tuesday. Analysts said the 0.5 per cent drop was another sign that the manufacturing sector remained in a recession.

"Certainly, in this series of numbers, there doesn't seem to be any sign of a trough or bottom in the recession," said Gilbert Benz, an economist with the Swiss Bank Corp. in New York.

The Commerce Department said orders for durable and non-durable goods fell to \$233.2 billion after shrinking 1.6 per cent a month earlier. Factory orders

have not risen since peaking at \$255.0 billion last October.

Benz said he was concerned not only that "big-ticket" durable orders fell, but also that orders for non-durable goods including apparel and household goods declined.

"There doesn't seem to be any demand by businesses or consumers at this point," he said.

Orders for durable goods — big-ticket items ranging from cars to computers expected to last more than three years — slipped 0.3 per cent to \$117.5 billion. It was the third decline in the last four months, including a 2.0 per cent drop in January.

Orders for non-durable products fell for the fourth straight month, down 0.8 per cent to \$115.8 billion after a 1.1 per cent decline in January.

And orders for non-defence capital goods, often a barometer of business plans to expand and modernize, slipped 0.7 per cent following an 11.9 per cent plunge a month earlier.

"When aircraft orders are excluded from non-defence capital goods, the decline was an even more severe 3.9 per cent," said Marilyn Schajda, an economist with Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette Securities Corp. in New York.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES				
Wednesday, April 3, 1991				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	677.8	681.0	French franc	119.0 119.7
Pound Sterling	1198.9	1206.1	Japanese yen (for 100)	491.2 494.1
Deutschmark	403.3	405.7	Dutch guilder	357.9 360.0
Swiss franc	476.1	479.0	Swedish crown	111.5 112.2
			Italian lire (for 100)	54.1 54.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	196.0 197.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES				
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.				
One Sterling	1.7745/55	U.S. dollar		
One U.S. dollar	1.1551/56	Canadian dollar		
	1.6720/27	Deutschemark		
	1.8845/55	Dutch guilders		
	1.4180/87	Swiss francs		
	34.40/44	Belgian francs		
	5.6650/6700	French francs		
	1246/1247	Italian lire		
	137.35/45	Japanese yen		
	6.0480/80	Swedish crowns		
	6.5070/20	Norwegian crowns		
	6.4100/50	Danish crowns		
One ounce of gold	358.20/358.70	U.S. dollars		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS	
By Reuters	
TOKYO — Stocks closed sharply higher after Wall Street and the yen both made gains on Tuesday. The Nikkei index rose 528.06 points, or 2.01 per cent, to 26,780.06.	
SYDNEY — Shares cautiously tracked bullish overseas markets to close higher in relatively light turnover. The All Ordinaries index ended 22.2 points higher at 1,457.0.	
HONG KONG — The market's bull run showed few signs of faltering as fresh buy orders drove the Hang Seng index up 79.91 points to end 2.1 per cent higher at 3,869.70.	
SINGAPORE — Shares closed mixed after selective bargain hunting alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times Industrial index closed at 1,488.01, up 7.52 points.	
BOMBAY — Prices finished mixed after a bullish opening for the third day. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index soared to 1,217.76 points in early trade but fell to 1,202.90, down 6.33 points from Tuesday's close. The National Index finished 0.23 points higher at 604.22.	
FRANKFURT — The market surged 2.5 per cent on domestic and foreign buying. The DAX ended 38.88 points higher at 1,577.50.	
ZURICH — Shares closed over one per cent higher, encouraged by Wall Street's strong gains. The SPI index rose 13.1 points, or 1.23 per cent, to 1,074.1.	
LONDON — The FTSE 100 index ended at a record closing high of 2,519.1 points, up 30.8, supported by a mostly steady performance from the Dow Jones Industrial index.	

MAID MISSING



The Filipina maid Antosa Seta — see photo above — was reported missing from her employer's house for more than seven months, and has not returned since then, despite informing the police about her disappearance. Therefore, anyone who conceals information about her or provides her with shelter will be legally liable.

The sponsor.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER ANGLICAN CHURCH SERVICES IN ENGLISH

Maundy Thursday April 4 5:00 pm Eucharist with Washing of feet
Good Friday, April 5 6:00 pm Good Friday Service (Arabic/English)
Holy Saturday, April 6 8:00 pm Easter Vigil with Renewal of Baptismal Vows
Easter Day, April 7 6:00 am Dawn Service at Mount Nebo
6:30 pm Easter Eucharist
Tel: 628543

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★ CAT 950 Excavator (2000 hours use only)
★ Poclain 75p Excavator (1300 hours use only)
★ Arbau Batching Plant (PB 35Z) - 35cu.m. per hour
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Durald Laham — Madlin Tabar in **Kafroon**

Show: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

KARATE KID II

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOM

POLICE ACADEMY '6'

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

ADEL IMAM in **THE PROFESSIONAL** (Arabic)

Show: 12:30, 3:15, 8:00, 10:00 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

Adel Imam — Mirvat Amin in **TIT FOR TAT** (Arabic)

Show: 3:30, 8:30 p.m.

Experts find key substance for blood clotting

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists have discovered a protein that plays a key role in blood clotting, an advance that could lead to new medicines for preventing heart attacks and strokes.

The protein binds to a natural substance called Thrombin as the initial step in producing blood clots, which can cause heart attacks and strokes when they block blood vessels.

The discovery was reported Friday in the journal *Cell* by researchers at the University of California, San Francisco. Further research may lead to new medicines that block formation of blood clots without the side effects of current drugs, study co-author Dr. Shaun Coughlin said.

The scientists reported that they had isolated the genetic material that lets cells produce the protein, called a Thrombin receptor. The receptor sits on the surface of blood cells called Platelets.

Thrombin, which is produced by blood vessels in response to injury, binds to this receptor. That makes platelets clump together, which is the initial step in clot formation. Coughlin said in a telephone interview.

The scientists showed that the newfound protein made cells respond to Thrombin.

mical makeup of the protein. Drugs that block the binding of Thrombin to the receptor may be able to prevent formation of clots with fewer side effects than current Thrombin-inhibiting medications, Coughlin said. That is because such drugs would not block beneficial effects of Thrombin that do not require the receptor, he said.

Those effects include causing production of another protein that discourages clot formation, he said. Normally that anti-clot action appears to be important in regulating Thrombin's effects, although its importance in blocking clots that lead to strokes and heart attacks is not known, he said.

The Thrombin receptor also appears on smooth muscle cells that line blood vessels and play a role in atherosclerosis, a narrowing of the passageway for blood within arteries that sets the stage for heart attacks and strokes. Thrombin stimulates growth of the cells.

Doctors often treat atherosclerosis by removing the bumpy plaques on the inside of the blood vessels. But sometimes the arteries become narrowed again because of growth of the smooth muscle cells. The new finding may aid research into this process, Coughlin said.

Havel helps bail out Czechoslovak medicine

By Anne Dastakian
Reuter

PRAGUE — President Václav Havel and his wife Olga are trying to help stave off the collapse of Czechoslovakia's state health system.

Havel last month donated \$130,000 of his own money — foreign royalties from plays and prizes he has collected over the past year — to the Czech and Slovak regional health ministries to help them buy drugs they cannot afford.

His wife runs a charity goodwill foundation, on whose behalf she frequently accepts gifts from abroad of much-needed medical equipment and drugs intended for use in the hospital treatment of children.

Czechoslovakia is beginning a two-year radical reform of health care, giving patients the right to choose their own doctors and introducing paid health insurance. It will replace a corrupt and demoralised — but free — system left over by the country's former Communist government.

However, medical facilities are coming under increasing strain. The health service faces acute financial problems and a chronic lack of some drugs, too expensive to be bought abroad since the devaluation of the crown currency last year.

Many low-paid doctors managed under the Communists to augment their incomes by black market work.

They would like to bring this into the open by having private practices.

"People can't afford a paying health care before health insurance is introduced" in 1992 Czech Regional Health Minister Martin Bojar told Reuters in an interview.

Bojar recently said prescription charges will probably go up from a token one crown (3.5 cents) to five crowns (18 cents), hospital care will be charged at 30 crowns (\$1.07) a day and abortions, currently free and available almost on demand, will cost 3,000 crowns (\$110).

A 44-year-old highly respected psychiatrist and

neurologist, Bojar was appointed health minister for the Czech Republic last June.

Energetic and much in demand, he will even give interviews in his car en route to answer questions in the Czech parliament rather than cancel a chance to expound his views.

Bojar says Czechoslovakia's state-run health service is not quite as devastated as, for example, Romania's. But charity is encouraged and foreign help welcomed as twin pillars to prop up the tottering system.

The parents of a four-year-old child, Patrik Polansky, recently appealed through the media for money that could buy him a liver transplant, an operation that can-

not be performed in Czechoslovakia.

Bojar said the end of the state monopoly on medicine, free choice of one's doctor and allowing the partly private practice of doctors should stimulate health care.

He cites the Canadian and Dutch health systems as models for the reforms he is trying to implement. By 1992, medicine will be financed jointly by insurance, local authorities and the state.

But there is much to be done in the meantime. Czechoslovakia has one of the highest numbers of medical personnel per capita in Europe, but hospitals are inefficient.

Nurses often have to perform tasks carried out by

unskilled staff in other countries and doctor's duties include some that in the West are considered nurses' jobs.

Bojar's budget this year, to provide comprehensive health care for around 10 million people, is 28 billion crowns (\$1 billion), eight per cent more than in 1990.

But officials in his ministry estimate that about half the total amount will be needed to compensate for the higher cost of drugs and equipment following the freeing of price controls which came into effect at the beginning of this year.

The budget will have to be revised every three months so that funds can be directed to the most urgent needs, they say.

Thailand's new rulers declare war on AIDS, sex industry

By Alistair McIntosh
Reuter

BANGKOK — Thailand's new military-installed government is declaring war on the country's infamous sex industry and the spread of the deadly AIDS virus.

"Sex tourists are no longer welcome here," declared veteran social reformer Mechai Viravaidya, minister of the prime minister's office in the new cabinet.

"We are telling them to go back home and exploit their own women and children," he said in an interview.

Thousands of foreign men — mainly from Western Europe, Australia, the United States and Japan — flock to Thailand every year in search of cheap sex. They don't have to look far.

Sleazy bars and massage parlours abound in the capital, Bangkok, and one Western resident described the Thai resort of Pattaya as "Sodom and Gomorrah by the sea."

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, whose administration was installed by a military junta which took power in a February coup,

has described prostitution and AIDS as Thailand's biggest social problem.

Some estimates put the number of women working as prostitutes as high as 700,000. Others say there are 200,000 child prostitutes.

The Public Health Ministry estimates 200,000 people throughout Thailand are infected with the virus which causes the deadly acquired immune deficiency syndrome, spread through sexual contact or drug addicts sharing needles.

A United Nations official has said that Thailand, with

nearly 60 million people, faces a "tragedy of devastating power" if it does not do more to stem the spread of AIDS.

Mechai said one of the main ways the government would tackle prostitution would be to discourage new recruits to the world's oldest profession.

Local companies were already being approached to provide jobs for girls from poor families who might otherwise turn to selling their bodies, Mechai said.

He said further details of the anti-prostitution cam-

paign would be presented shortly to the new National Assembly.

"But no one should doubt we are very, very serious about this," he said.

Tourism is the nation's biggest foreign currency earner but Mechai, who is also chairman of the Tourist Authority of Thailand, said it did not need money from sex-hungry men.

But he made it clear it was not just foreigners the new administration wanted to discourage.

"We also want to work on the attitude of the Thai

male," he said. "We want to educate Thai women so they will no longer be so tolerant when their men go off to sex places."

Prime Minister Anan, addressing a gathering of poor and handicapped Thais at government house last week, said that every day 450,000 Thai men visited prostitutes and half of them did not use condoms.

Mechai, Thailand's leading anti-AIDS campaigner before his cabinet appointment, said Thais would face a huge programme of education about the virus.

Livestock threat spawns unlikely alliance

By Clare Pedrick
ROME — An ugly blue-green fly that feeds on flesh and can cause death to both animals and humans has inadvertently prompted the cooperation of two unlikely partners — Libya and the United States.

The New World Screwworm, so called because it is a native of the Americas, has alarmed health and agricultural officials by making an appearance on the other side of the Atlantic. A little over two years ago, the insect was discovered in Libya. Its trademark was unmistakable: gaping wounds in livestock and in some cases in humans. Not for nothing is the pest known in Latin as the *coeliomyia hominivorax* — a devourer of man.

Agricultural experts knew they had to act quickly. The screwworm, which unlike some other flies attacks only living creatures, breeds with great rapidity and can spread at an alarming rate. An average fly can lay 400 eggs in just 15 minutes. If it remained unchecked, said experts, the insect could establish itself throughout the entire African continent, as well as in the Middle East, Asia and parts of southern Europe.

But a major hurdle faced development aid officials in their battle to stop the spread of the insect population. The only effective way of eradi-

cating the screwworm is the so-called Sterile Insect Technique, a system which involves unleashing millions of sterile male flies into the environment, so they will mate with normal females, whose eggs will in turn be sterile.

The technique was developed by a U.S. scientist more than 30 years ago, and to this day the only producer of the sterile male flies is a jointly owned American-Mexican company in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico. And there was the catch. Under rules imposed by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan there is a strict ban on American goods being sold to Libya, and on U.S. citizens working there. President George Bush has upheld the embargo, and hostilities between the two countries intensified last year with American accusation that Libya had been manufacturing chemical weapons. For its part, Libya, enraged by the 1986 U.S. bombing of Tripoli, put a blanket ban on all imports from North America.

The problem seemed insoluble, but officials at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), alarmed at the implications of the plague for much of the developing world, interceded to effect a temporary truce. "It was a very difficult situation, and there was a great deal of

delicacy and diplomacy involved," said Dr. Patrick Cunningham, the FAO official in charge of the screwworm programme. "The technology was American, but the problem was Libyan. The U.S. doesn't talk to Libya, and Libya doesn't talk to the U.S."

In the end, the good offices of the FAO prevailed, and arrangements were made for both sides to make provisional alterations to their respective laws governing imports and exports. Dr. Cunningham and his team acted as go-betweens. Now, with the diplomatic tussles over, the programme is finally under way. Each week, tens of millions of sterile male flies are flown over in the larval stage, packed in specially-built boxes. At Tripoli, the unusual cargo is transferred to refrigerated trailers.

"At this point, they are heated in containers to a temperature of 27 degrees centigrade until they emerge as adult flies," said Dr. Cunningham. "Then they are loaded into light aircraft and sent out on special bombing missions. The planes are

equipped with chutes to distribute the boxes, and these are designed to self-destruct on impact with the airstream. The flies are released and they get down to work."

Dr. Cunningham, the Irish-born director of the FAO's Screwworm Emergency Centre for North Africa, has just returned to his Rome office from a trip to Libya to see the programme in operation. At present, the flies are being released at a rate of 800 per square kilometre, a ratio which will more than double by the time the project gets under full swing in April.

The programme is coordinated by a multi-national team, including staff from the U.S.-Mexican plant which produces the flies. Their work is backed up by a crew of 400 Libyans who monitor progress and carry out checks on the livestock.

The effects of the screwworm were first discovered in the French penal colony of Devil's Island in 1855. A military doctor noted that a large festering wound on the face of one of the convicts was caused by the larvae that had hatched from the screwworm fly. The Caribbean and South and North America have always been the traditional strongholds of the fly, which experts describe as the most destructive insect known to man.

Massive eradication programmes using the sterile insect technique had wiped the screwworm out in Mexico and North America by the beginning of the 1980s, though it still remains entrenched in certain parts of the south of the continent and the Caribbean.

Slightly larger than a house-fly, and not unlike a bluebottle in appearance, the screwworm fly differs in that it only feeds on live flesh — not on dead meat like most of its cousins. The female fly lays its eggs wherever there is an opening in the skin — in insect bites, scratches or in man-made wounds caused by shearing, branding or castration. The maggots which hatch out then bore into the flesh, turning a small nick into an ugly and dangerous wound in a very short time.

Fully grown cattle can die in just a few days and hu-

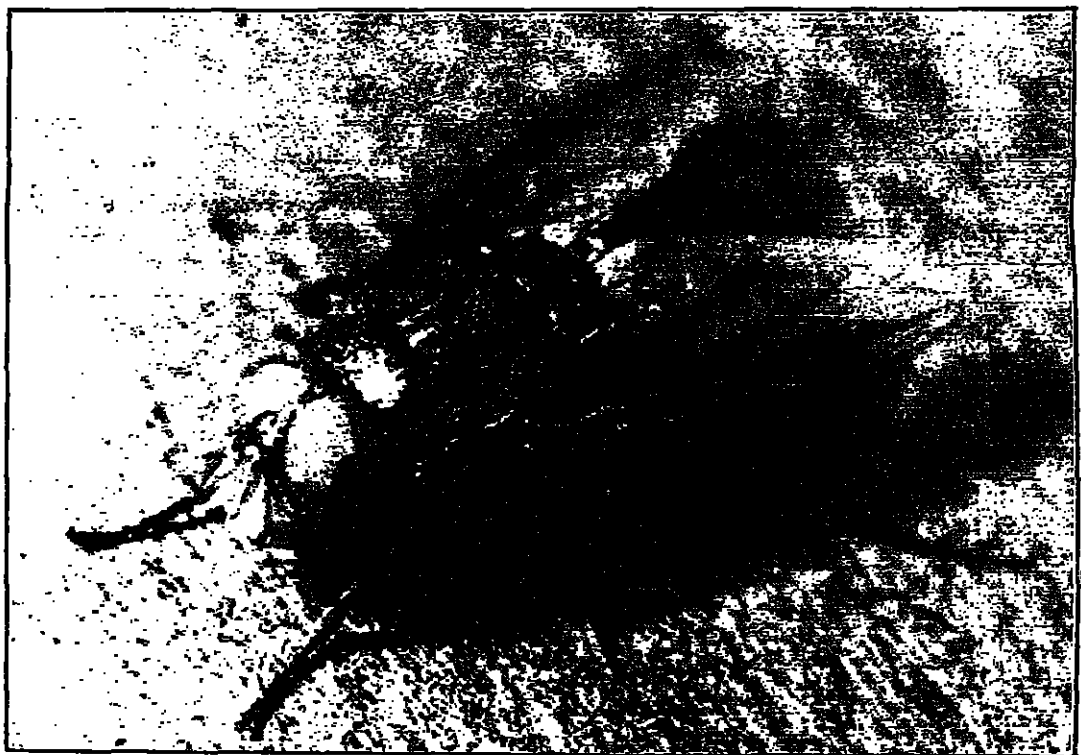
mans, especially old people and infants, are also at risk, the dangers are even higher in countries where health care is inadequate and organisms are already weakened by malnourishment. "It's an extremely destructive insect," said Dr. Cunningham. "It creates gaping wounds very quickly and the odor given off then attracts more flies, which lay more eggs. It's really a terrible affliction. If untreated, it can be fatal."

The wounds can be treated with powders, and animals can be disinfected with pesticides, but the costs are high. FAO officials have estimated it would cost \$10 a year to prevent each animal from being infected. If precautions weren't taken soon enough, and Libya's seven million head of livestock were to be contaminated, treatment would cost at least \$28 million a year, they have calculated.

But the greatest risk is that the insect could spread to other parts of the African continent. Once that happened, the plague would be out of control, say experts. "Even if it just spread to the five countries of North Africa it would cost about \$280 million a year to treat," said Dr. Cunningham. "If it spread to sub-Saharan and tropical Africa, the costs would be incalculable."

"It has been a very big economic burden on the Libyans. They have spent millions of dollars treating the animals and imposing quarantines," he added. "Libya can live with it, because it is a rich country and because livestock is not central to its economy, but that's certainly not the case with Chad, Sudan, Niger and all the other central African countries. That's why our real concern is to stamp it out before it gets out of Libya. Once it did, it would become uncontrollable and the losses would be enormous, not just in terms of livestock, but to Africa's wildlife population and even to humans."

The infected area in Libya is a 25,000-square-kilometre strip that stretches along the coast 150 kilometres either side of Tripoli. To the west, it comes close to the Tunisian border, where a red alert has



The screwworm fly attacks living animals, laying its eggs on open wounds. When the maggots hatch, they bore into the flesh making even the smallest nick into a large, gaping wound.

been declared. "If it spread to Tunisia it would be a disaster, especially to Tunisia's sheep population which plays an important role in the economy," said Dr. Cunningham. "We have started a FAO programme, together with the Tunisians, to alert livestock owners and veterinary authorities to the dangers, and we have also set up a parallel inspection programme. There is a very strict quarantine in operation, and Tunisia has banned the import of livestock from Libya until the emergency is over."

It is still not clear just how the screwworm made its trans-Atlantic journey to Libya from the American continent, but FAO officials say the most probable route was via a shipment of infected livestock. "We have traced four shipments that came into Libya from South America during 1988 (the year the fly was first discovered)," said Dr. Cunningham. "But given that there are a great many shipments of livestock to the Middle East from South America each year it is surprising it has not happened before."

The Middle East would be the next port of call for the screwworm, if steps were not taken to halt it in its tracks, says Dr. Cunningham. From there, it would spread quickly to Asia. Traveling northwards from Libya, it could

easily take hold in parts of France, Spain and Italy, he said. "Any further north than that and it gets too cold. The screwworm likes warm climates."

In tandem with the eradication programme, the FAO team has organised courses in Libya to train agricultural officials from Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Chad, Sudan and Niger on how to recognise the first signs of the fly's presence and how to set up quarantine measures to isolate any outbreaks.

Later, a second course will be arranged for officials from African countries further away, nations that are considered the second line of defense in the screwworm battle. Other staff are engaged in distributing leaflets to the Libyan population to explain the programme to them and to reassure them over the presence of sudden swarms of flies and strange-looking boxes floating down from the skies.

The total cost of the project is pegged at \$55 million per year. The Libyan contribution will be \$25 million in cash and in kind, most of it spent on maintaining the 400-strong inspection taskforce. The rest of the funding will come from aid agencies and foreign donations.

FAO officials estimate it will probably take two years

before eradication is complete. "The fly has a life cycle of about three weeks, and if we continue with this saturation for about 10 cycles, reckon we should come close to eradication," said Dr. Cunningham. "However, experience has taught us that sometimes patches are left, so we are planning on two years to make absolutely sure. It may be that we'll be able to finish sooner."

If all goes according to plan, once the project is over there will be no signs that the problem ever existed. "It's a fantastic technique because it's very environmentally safe, it leaves no residues, doesn't build up any resistance in the rest of the insect population like some other eradication programmes, and it doesn't target any other wildlife," said Dr. Cunningham.

"In a sense we have much to be grateful for. The sea to the north and the desert to the south have both helped stop it spreading more quickly than it has," he added. "And we should be thankful it made its appearance in Libya, which is after all a rich country that has plenty of trained manpower, wide open spaces, airports and airstrips and no dense jungle. But if it were to spread further into other parts of Africa the effects would be devastating" — World News Link.



Powders are one of the remedies being used to treat wounds caused by the screwworm fly.

King

(Continued from page 1)

right and this is our responsibility, the responsibility of all Jordanians who are concerned about mankind and about the world environment."

"I believe that it was possible to avert war and to solve the crisis peacefully and I believe that the peoples of the world respect Jordan's stand, but those who misunderstand Jordan's position have been victims of lies and falsehoods fabricated against this country," the King said.

"Sooner or later matters will clear up, and then these people will feel guilty for adopting such attitudes towards Jordan," he added.

"Jordanians will continue to have their heads raised high despite the dimension of the suffering they face," the King said.

In Bonn, German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher described the King's visit as important and said it helped to clear matters for the European Council meeting scheduled for April 8.

The German Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that Germany and Jordan agree that the present opportunity for peace should not be missed.

During his visit to France, King Hussein discussed the consequences of the Gulf war on Jordan as well as the Arab-Israeli conflict.

According to Petra, the French and Jordanian sides agreed to work together at the regional and international levels to find solutions for the Middle East question.

The King was accompanied on the visit by Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Massi.

France

(Continued from page 1)

could not endorse such a failure," he said.

Mr. Mitterrand, who has called for a Kurdish settlement to be part of a comprehensive Middle East peace, supported the Kurds' demands for autonomy. He said they were entitled to have their own identity, language and culture within existing borders.

Mr. Dumas said Paris had protested to President Saddam Hussein through the Soviet Union which represents Iraqi interests since Baghdad severed relations during the Gulf war.

He said France had started and would continue giving Kurds humanitarian aid through countries bordering Iraq.

The 12 European Community governments Wednesday denounced Iraq's handling of the rebellions as brutal and said only dialogue could unify the country.

"The community and its member states are very deeply concerned at the situation of the civilian population in Iraq, notably the Kurds and the Shiites," the governments said in a joint statement.

"They firmly condemn the brutal repression being imposed upon these population groups, bringing about a flow of refugees towards the neighboring countries," it added.

Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher urged the British government to send emergency humanitarian aid to help Kurdish refugees.

After meeting Kurdish exiles, Mrs. Thatcher said Kurds trapped on the Turkish border needed urgent help.

"It should not be beyond the wit of man to get planes there with tents, with food and with warm blankets," she said.

"I think we should take very firm steps. It is not a question of standing on legal niceties. We should go now," Mrs. Thatcher said, speaking to reporters.

The United States promised Wednesday to urgently consider humanitarian aid for Iraqi refugees once a Gulf war ceasefire resolution was approved by the United Nations Security Council.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering has "been instructed, immediately following passage of the ceasefire resolution, to pursue, on an urgent basis, Security Council action to address these pressing concerns."

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tawil told reporters. She did not commit Washington to any specific course of action other than humanitarian assistance but said: "We want to find the most effective means for the United Nations to express its condemnation of the brutality taking place in Iraq and its determination to do what it can to address this situation."

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata demanded Wednesday that Turkey open its borders for fleeing Kurds.

Resolution

(Continued from page 1)

not our purpose. It never was our purpose."

"I do not want to see us get sucked into the internal struggle in Iraq," Mr. Bush said, adding that he did not want to "commit our men and our women to further combat."

"We've done the heavy lifting," Mr. Bush said.

Jupiter, Florida, President George Bush said he was increasingly frustrated by reports of the violence in Iraq and said he would be willing to take a "new look" at relations with Baghdad if Iraq's army overthrew President Saddam.

"I would be willing to take a new look if the army took matters into its own hands," Mr. Bush told reporters as he was ending a four-day holiday in Florida.

Erbil firmly back in government hands

By Wafa Amr
The Associated Press

ERBIL, Iraq — The smoke of battle still drifted in the air Tuesday and bodies were still lying in the streets patrolled by Republican Guards.

Erbil was back in the hands of the Iraqi army, which seemed to be on its way to recapturing northern Iraq after quelling the rebellion against the government of President Saddam Hussein in the south.

There was the distant sound of gunfire and artillery. But Erbil police chief Qassem Al Duri told reporters the exchange "was far away from Erbil in the mountains where the Iraqi army was driving out the remaining rebels."

Foreign journalists toured the ancient Kurdish city of Erbil, about 500 kilometres north of Baghdad, Tuesday, three days after the Iraqi army took over the city from Kurdish rebels.

Erbil was almost deserted except for the army and some families who were returning to their homes after having fled the fighting. Families in traditional Kurdish costumes carried what belongings they had and walked back home.

The army seemed in complete control of the city that had been in the hands of Kurdish rebels since March 11.

"The Kurdish militias ended Kurdistan's self-rule at 7 a.m. on March 11. They carried machine guns, rocket launchers and light weapons. They fired from rooftops," said Tawfiq Oweiz, a Kurdish resident.

He said he heard "intensive fighting and the sound of helicopters. I saw the rebels seal Erbil's central shopping centre and burn it."

Mr. Oweiz said there was little opposition from the people when the rebels entered the city so they easily controlled it. He said they came in cars and on foot from the mountains in the north.

"Around 100,000 militiamen entered the city and started looting and destroying," said Adel Kakay, head of administration department of Salabeddin University.

He said they killed many ruling Baath Party members and their families.

Dhanem Kurdi, a government employee, said he was "terrorised by the inhumane actions of the rebels. They rounded up families and shot them."

Mr. Duri, the chief of police said, "the rebels killed families and seized their houses to use as headquarters."

The rebels have accused the Iraqi troops of committing atrocities against innocent civilians and against Kurds in the north and Shi'ites in the north that they suspected of taking part in the rebellion.

Foreign reporters unable to cover most of the fighting cannot verify any of the claims independently.

Mr. Duri said the rebels included about 20 different political groups, however their aims were not clear.

"Their aims were contradictory. They were not sure what they wanted to achieve and whenever residents approached them with their demands, they were confused and did not know how to respond," he said.

However, a Kurd who spoke on condition of anonymity said the 800,000 Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan "wanted a change in the government."

The chief of police said most of the rebels were army deserters, ex-criminals, outlaws and brain-washed kids. They all came from the Iranian border, he said.

Army tanks and soldiers were camped on the city's outskirts. A pile of seized weapons were guarded by Iraqi soldiers. More than 100 pro-government Kurdish militiamen were also camped at the city's entrance.

Traces of the battle were evident on the outskirts of the city. There were burned army tanks and trucks, scores of soldiers at checkpoints. There was smoke in the air.

At the city's entrance, in front of what seemed to be an army base, four Kurdish men were held prisoner with their hands tied behind their backs. They were surrounded by soldiers waiting.

Inside Erbil, both anti-government and pro-government slogans covered the walls. Shop windows were broken, schools were destroyed and ashes covered the ground. All government buildings were destroyed and burned.

The rebels started with schools and government buildings, said one soldier.

There were a dozen dead bodies, some bloated and others burned, still lying in the streets.

A helicopter flew over the city as well as an American fighter plane that flew very low.

The police station in Erbil seemed to serve as the Iraqi Communist Party's headquarters before the army entered. The hammer and sickle symbol were drawn on a wall in red and, also in red, the words "Iraqi Communist Headquarters" was painted above the door.

Army trucks carried Kurds returning to their homes. One soldier said Iraqi military helicopters threw leaflets advising Erbil residents to leave the city before the army entered.

"We did not want to harm the citizens," the soldier said.

The Republican Guards, all very young men, roamed the city streets.

"We fought in Kuwait and now we have come from Karbala and Kirkuk. We drove rebels out completely," said one Republican Guard.

Another said it took them two days to recapture the city. "It was an easy task," he said.

Ramadan: A month to affirm one's faith

By Giles Trendle

One night in the year 601, a middle-aged merchant by the name of Mohammad was sitting, in pensive mood, in a cave on a hill just outside of Mecca, as was his wont, when he heard a voice amid a sound of clanging bells calling him to: "Recite in the name of thy Lord..."

This exhortation to proclaim God's message, which marks the birth of Islam as a religion and proved to be the first of many that the unlettered merchant from Mecca was to receive, came in the Arabic month of Ramadan.

Fourteen years later Mohammad and his 300 followers, invigorated by their new faith, defeated a 1,000-strong force of

Meccans at a village called Badr, some 300 kilometres north of Mecca. This success, which was to prove to be Islam's first and decisive military victory, also took place in the auspicious month of Ramadan.

The divine call to Mohammad and the earthly victory at Badr, both taking place in the month of Ramadan, marked out that month as special in the eyes of those early Muslims. Ramadan was thus declared as holy and was set aside as a month in which Muslims should affirm their faith by fasting.

From sunrise until sunset in Ramadan nothing should pass between the lips of a Muslim, in-

cluding all food, liquids, tobacco products and even chewing gum, and Muslims should refrain from sexual intercourse. Time should be given instead to greater religious reflection, praying and reciting from the Koran.

Growing children, pregnant and nursing mothers, soldiers on duty, and the chronically sick are, however, exempt from fasting. For the rest the daylight fast, particularly if the weather is hot, is an exacting duty. Temperatures often grow shorter in this month and the energy levels of fasters decrease, thereby accounting for a slower, more muted pace of life.

Egyptians, even if they be Coptic Christians.

The boom of the cannon at the citadel marks the end of the day's fast and the beginning of the night's festivities when, the sun having set, fasters can finally tuck into their, the lavish evening meal.

It is somewhat ironic that Egyptians often tend to consume more food in the month of Ramadan than at any other time of the year. Egypt's Ministry of Supply and Home Trade recently asked food production companies to distribute their wares early this

the cannon sounds from the high walls of the citadel. Having been relatively drowsy throughout the day, Cairo awakens after the iftar and the revelries and festivities begin. The narrow lanes in and around Midan Hussein, near Khan Al Khalili, are particularly lively and colourful during Ramadan, including wandering bands of musicians, magicians (the gala gala men) and a whole host of other street entertainers.

Ramadan is a particularly colourful affair. The traditional symbol of the holy month is the multi-coloured glass lantern, the fanous, which is hung and sold on many streets all over the city. The bright lights and merriment enkindle an even greater feeling of goodwill among Egyptians towards strangers.

A foreigner who wishes his Muslim friend or acquaintance a happy holiday, by saying kull sima ou mta tayyib (every year may you be well), will undoubtedly be showered with thanks and gratitude.

The merrymaking often goes on all night up until the final meal, sahur, before the pre-dawn prayer which will mark the beginning of the new day's fast. Ramadan is celebrated all over the Middle East and even beyond.

Coming on the heels of a major war in the region which has seen the Arab World bitterly divided, the holy month could prove even more significant than usual — Middle East Times.

Like the common performance of worship, and the pilgrimage to Mecca, the Ramadan fast unifies all Muslims from every part of the world.

Al Raiyan

By E. Yaghi

WHEN Ramadan begins, the gates of paradise are opened, the gates of hell are closed and the devils are chained. On the Day of Resurrection, all those who observed fasting will enter through a gate of paradise called Al Raiyan. Only those who observed the fasts will enter this gate and after their entry, the gate will be closed and entry by others will be prohibited.

Although all practices of worship are for God, God singles out fasting as the only act truly performed for his sake; for fasting cannot be practised for the sake of showing off as nobody can know whether one is fasting or not except God. Therefore, fasting is a pure performance that cannot be blemished with hypocrisy.

Once again, Ramadan is upon us. It is a time of introspection and assessment of Islamic faith. In Islam, fasting is an abstention from things of material nature, such as food, drink, smoking, etc. in order to have spiritual joys and moral nourishment. While the Muslim empties his stomach, he fills his heart with love and sympathy, his spirit with piety and faith and his mind with wisdom and resolution.

The purpose of fasting in other religions and philosophies is invariably partial. It is either for spiritual aims or physical needs or intellectual cultivations but never for a combination of all the above factors. However, in Islam, fasting is for all these gains as well as for many other purposes such as social and economic, moral and humanitarian, private and public and inner as well as outer, all combined together.

Islamic fasting is often accompanied by extra devotion and worship, extra charity and study of the Holy Koran and extra self-discipline and conscience awakening. Fasting is not a retreat from life but a penetration with spiritual armaments, a moral enrichment. Fasting does not break the faithful but rather harmonises his existence.

The occurrence of Ramadan fluctuates throughout the years because the Islamic calendar is based on lunar months which are in accordance with the va-

rious positions of the moon. This means that over a period of a number of years, Islamic fasting covers the 4 major seasons and circulates back and forth between summer and winter, fall and spring in a rotating manner. Hence, the Muslim experience of fasting on several levels and vibrant climates, sometimes in the winter of short and cold days, sometimes in the summer of long hot days and sometimes in between. During the month of Ramadan, the daily period of fasting starts before the break of dawn and ends immediately after sunset. Fasting is one of the five pillars of Islam. Failure to observe it without a reasonable excuse is a punishable sin by God.

Fasting is compulsory for every Muslim male and female who is mentally and physically fit or sane and able. Anyone who fasts must be full age. Children under this age should be encouraged to start fasting on easy levels so by the time they reach puberty, they will be mentally and physically able to fast.

Those who are exempted from fasting are then, children under age, the insane, the aged who cannot physically fast and the sick who may postpone their fast and make up for it at a later date when able. Expectant and nursing mothers may not fast if there is a danger to their health or their infants, but they must also make up for days missed. Fasting may not also be performed by any person who is not sober.

Fasting is a shield. The fasting person should not behave foolishly and impudently. If someone fights with the fasting person or abuses him, he should tell the disturber twice, "I am fasting."

Fasting is an expiation of sins and a fulfilment of the spiritual factor that exists in the Holy month of Ramadan, the month in which the Holy Koran was sent down as a guide for mankind so that they could see the signs of clear guidance and be able to judge between right and wrong. Ramadan is a month of personal sacrifice and a striving to be nearer to God. To all those who fast, Mabruk Ramadan and May God accept your fasting!

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Profits of Credit Suisse fall by third

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Credit Suisse, Switzerland's third-largest commercial bank, has posted a 31 per cent drop in net profit in 1990.

Net profit fell to million Swiss francs (\$399 million) last year from 783 million francs (\$580 million) in 1989, the bank said.

Consequently, Credit Suisse said it would propose cutting its dividend on 1990 earnings. It didn't specify how much.

The bank attributed the drop in net profit to a sharp decline in earnings from securities trading.

Credit Suisse Chairman Robert Jeker described the decline as exceptional, and forecast that 1991 earnings would return to "the good levels we achieved in 1989."

Cash flow of Credit Suisse, a unit of C.S. Holding was down 20 per cent last year at 1.18 billion francs (\$1.09 billion).

Atari may build computers in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S.-based Atari Corp. plans to invest \$150 million to make personal computers and electronic games in Israel if the government invests in producing components, the industry ministry said Tuesday.

"This is a breakthrough in foreign investment," ministry director-general Zvi Koren told Israel radio.

But he said the Atari proposal depended on the establishment of factories to make parts for the Atari products, such as printed circuit boards and software, and serve other computer and electronic firms.

Such a support network would cost \$75 to \$100 million, the ministry said. Koren said the cabinet could discuss the investment proposal as soon as next week.

"The government is not giving more money. It is giving guarantees for loans. If the industry is successful, then it will not cost the government anything. In the event the industry fails, the government will share the losses," he said.

The proposal would be a boost to foreign investment in Israel, sorely needed to help the country absorb an influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

It also coincides with Israel's desire to develop export-oriented industries, particularly in the high-tech field.

Atari's investment would be \$150 million and the plant's projected sales would be \$150 million a year, the ministry said. It would initially employ 600 people increasing to 1,000 within five years.

Atari's plan to transfer some operations from Taiwan to Israel indicates it wants to use Israel's free trade agreement with the European Community. To qualify for duty-free trade, the product must include Israeli-made parts.

The ministry believes the related industries would employ 2,000 people and have an export potential of \$300 million to \$500 million.

Recession eats at Fortune 500 corporations

NEW YORK (AP) — The recession dogged the U.S. biggest companies last year, but General Motors Corp. (G.M.) stayed No. 1 despite \$2 billion in losses, Fortune magazine said in its annual list of 500 top corporations.

A competing ranking by Forbes magazine of what it calls the "most powerful" American companies ignored G.M. entirely because the automaker didn't make any money in 1990.

The weakened economy was the dominant theme in the rankings. Fortune said half of the 50 largest industrial companies on its list lost money or earned less. Overall, Fortune 500 profits fell 11.7 per cent, even though sales rose 6.1 per cent.

G.M. with over \$126 billion in revenues, retained the top spot despite a 0.8 per cent drop in sales. Ford Motor Co. slipped to No. 3 and Chrysler Corp. tumbled three spots to No. 11, reflecting a sour performance by the auto industry.

Fortune bases its list on total sales and rates only industrial companies. The magazine also compiles separate rankings of the companies by profits, assets, stockholder equity and other financial indicators.

Exxon Corp. rose to second place in sales on the Fortune list. Completing the top 10 were International Business Machines Corp. (IBM), Mobil Corp., General Electric Co., Philip Morris Inc., Texaco Inc., Dupont and Chevron Corp.

Forbes also ranks 500 companies by sales, profits, assets and market value. To distinguish itself from Fortune, it does a composite ranking across all categories to determine the "super 50."

On the composite list, General Electric Co. replaced G.M. as Forbes' "most powerful" com-

pany, followed by Exxon, IBM, Philip Morris, American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT&T), Mobil, Chevron, Dupont, Ford and Amoco Corp.

AT&T was not on Fortune's list because it is not an industrial company. The Forbes list includes service companies, retailers, financial institutions and utilities in addition to manufacturers.

The lists showed how the recession touched major sectors of the economy.

Sales sank 96 per cent among transportation equipment companies in the Fortune 500, 79 per cent in textiles, 51 per cent in building materials, 11 per cent in metals, and 27 per cent in motor vehicles and parts.

G.M. lost \$1,986 billion to finish 173rd in profits. Ford made \$860 million — a 79 per cent decline — and Chrysler reported just \$68 million in earnings, about as much as No. 186 Lockett Corp., which makes adhesives.

Occidental Petroleum Corp., which after founder Armand Hammer died announced a huge restructuring charge to pay for ailing projects, lost \$1.7 billion but held on to No. 16 on the Fortune list.

Wang Laboratories Inc. lost \$716 million and dropped 22 places to 169th. General Dynamics Corp. fell to 18th from 11th after losing \$578 million. Bethlehem Steel Corp. lost \$161 million and slipped to 106th from 99th.

The Gulf crisis and resulting rise in oil prices helped the petroleum refining industry stay healthy, with profits 32.6 per cent higher.

Saudis said to discourage dealings with some banks

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has asked domestic banks to think twice about dealing with a token number of foreign banks which treated them badly during the Gulf crisis, Saudi-based bankers have said.

But they said the instructions, which were given verbally to the kingdom's 12 commercial banks last month, was not an official blacklisting and would have little impact on the six foreign banks named.

Saudi financial authorities intended mainly to signal their displeasure with the way many international banks reacted to the crisis by singling out a few which were the first to arbitrarily cut credit lines to the area, the bankers said.

The affected banks were Japan's Sanwa Bank Ltd and Tokai Bank Ltd, the Royal Bank of Canada, the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of Taiwan and the Taiwan-based International Commercial Bank of China.

"There is nothing official, nothing in writing," said a managing director of one of the kingdom's nine joint venture banks. "They simply contacted us and said these six banks treated Saudi banks very badly during the crisis and we think you should think twice about dealing with them."

"It's not being taken very seriously. It's just a sign that SAMA (The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency) won't take

things lying down... they want to make their displeasure known," a general manager of one of the kingdom's biggest banks said.

All Gulf-based banks were hurt by a loss of international confidence after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

SAMA, like other central banks in the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — asked Saudi banks in August to provide lists of names of firms which were quickest to cut credit lines and refuse to do business with them.

The other GCC members, apart from Kuwait, affected by the crisis — Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — have not taken follow-up action on the lists, Gulf-based bankers said.

Senior bankers in Saudi Arabia said they would continue to deal with the six banks singled out for disapproval if they needed to but would try to give the business to others. None of the six were major players in the area, they said.

"Business is business. Unless there is an official black list I will deal with any of these banks if I need their business," one banker said.

"However, I'm going to choose someone else who was more reasonable during the crisis if I have a choice," he added.

Saudi bankers said most inter-

national banks reacted negatively to them during the Gulf crisis but many were willing to restore credit lines or other kinds of business they had suspended after discussing the issue.

The six banks named were slowest to respond and some had even refused to accept letters of credit or even \$1,000 drafts from their clients during the crisis, the bankers said.

"SAMA is hoping that if anything like this ever happens again, banks will not be so quick to cut off their relations," one Saudi banker said.

"But I don't think it will last very long. These six banks will be very keen to make amends," he said.

A spokesman for Sanwa Bank in the Middle East denied that it had ever decided to formally suspend credit lines to Saudi banks during the crisis. Saudi banks were continuing to place large amounts of money with Sanwa, he said.

"Sanwa headquarters never gave instructions to its branches to suspend credit lines to Saudi banks and did not refuse to take money from them... but individual dealers not familiar with the Middle East may have done this," he said.

"We are still taking large amounts of deposits from Saudi banks — nothing has changed," he added.

U.S. factory orders drop for 4th month in February

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders for factory goods fell in February for the fourth straight month, the government said Tuesday. Analysts said the 0.5 per cent drop was another sign that the manufacturing sector remained in a recession.

"Certainly, in this series of numbers, there doesn't seem to be any sign of a trough or bottom in the recession," said Gilbert Benz, an economist with the Swiss Bank Corp. in New York.

The Commerce Department said orders for durable and non-durable goods fell to \$233.2 billion after shrinking 1.6 per cent a month earlier. Factory orders

have not risen since peaking at \$255.0 billion last October.

Benz said he was concerned not only that "big-ticket" durable orders fell, but also that orders for non-durable goods including apparel and household goods declined.

"There doesn't seem to be any demand by businesses or consumers at this point," he said.

Orders for durable goods — big-ticket items ranging from cars to computers expected to last more than three years — slipped 0.3 per cent to \$117.5 billion. It was the third decline in the last four months, including a 2.0 per cent drop in January.

Orders for non-durable products fell for the fourth straight month, down 0.8 per cent to \$115.8 billion after a 1.1 per cent decline in January.

And orders for non-defence capital goods, often a barometer of business plans to expand and modernize, slipped 0.7 per cent following an 11.9 per cent plunge a month earlier.

"When aircraft orders are excluded from non-defence capital goods, the decline was an even more severe 3.9 per cent," said Marilyn Schajda, an economist with Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette Securities Corp. in New York.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES				
Wednesday, April 3, 1991				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	677.8	681.0	French franc	119.0 119.7
Pound Sterling	1198.9	1206.1	Japanese yen (for 100)	491.2 494.1
Deutschmark	403.3	405.7	Dutch guilder	357.9 360.0
Swiss franc	476.1	479.0	Swedish crown	111.5 112.2
			Italian lire (for 100)	54.1 54.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	196.0 197.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES				
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.				
One Sterling	1.7745/55	U.S. dollar		
One U.S. dollar	1.1551/56	Canadian dollar		
	1.6720/27	Deutschemark		
	1.8845/55	Dutch guilders		
	1.4180/87	Swiss francs		
	34.40/44	Belgian francs		
	5.6650/6700	French francs		
	1246/1247	Italian lire		
	137.35/45	Japanese yen		
	6.0480/80	Swedish crowns		
	6.5070/20	Norwegian crowns		
	6.4100/50	Danish crowns		
One ounce of gold	358.20/358.70	U.S. dollars		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS	
By Reuters	
TOKYO — Stocks closed sharply higher after Wall Street and the yen both made gains on Tuesday. The Nikkei index rose 528.06 points, or 2.01 per cent, to 26,780.06.	
SYDNEY — Shares cautiously tracked bullish overseas markets to close higher in relatively light turnover. The All Ordinaries index ended 22.2 points higher at 1,457.0.	
HONG KONG — The market's bull run showed few signs of faltering as fresh buy orders drove the Hang Seng index up 79.91 points to end 2.1 per cent higher at 3,869.70.	
SINGAPORE — Shares closed mixed after selective bargain hunting alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times Industrial index closed at 1,488.01, up 7.52 points.	
BOMBAY — Prices finished mixed after a bullish opening for the third day. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index soared to 1,217.76 points in early trade but fell to 1,202.90, down 6.33 points from Tuesday's close. The National Index finished 0.23 points higher at 604.22.	
FRANKFURT — The market surged 2.5 per cent on domestic and foreign buying. The DAX ended 38.88 points higher at 1,577.50.	
ZURICH — Shares closed over one per cent higher, encouraged by Wall Street's strong gains. The SPI index rose 13.1 points, or 1.23 per cent, to 1,074.1.	
LONDON — The FTSE 100 index ended at a record closing high of 2,519.1 points, up 30.8, supported by a mostly steady performance from the Dow Jones Industrial index.	

MAID MISSING



The Filipina maid Antosa Seta — see photo above — was reported missing from her employer's house for more than seven months, and has not returned since then, despite informing the police about her disappearance. Therefore, anyone who conceals information about her or provides her with shelter will be legally liable.

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Good Friday, April 5 6:00 pm Good Friday Service (Arabic/English)
Holy Saturday, April 6 8:00 pm Easter Vigil with Renewal of Baptismal Vows
Easter Day, April 7 6:00 am Dawn Service at Mount Nebo
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Adel Imam — Mirvat Amin in **TIT FOR TAT** (Arabic)

Show: 3:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

KARATE KID II

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOM

POLICE ACADEMY '6'

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

Adel Imam in **THE PROFESSIONAL** (Arabic)

Show: 12:30, 3:15, 8:00, 10:00 p.m.

Russian leader suffers string of defeats in parliament

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian Federation leader Boris Yeltsin suffered a setback in his campaign against central Kremlin rule Wednesday when Communist deputies voted down his call for swift direct elections to an executive presidency.

The vote was one of a series of defeats Wednesday for Yeltsin, who would almost certainly win any election for the Russian presidency and thereby strengthen his hand against rival Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Congress of People's Deputies, the republic's highest legislature, rejected by a clear margin Yeltsin's request that the lower sitting parliament should arrange for the holding of elections at the end of May or beginning of June.

The population of Russia, by far the most powerful of the 15 Soviet republics, voted in favour of a directly elected Russian president at a referendum last month. But hardliners and many more-moderate Communists fear this could unleash a fierce power struggle between Yeltsin and Gorbachev.

Both men were elected to their present positions by their respective parliaments.

The congress, debating a resolution on last week's report by Yeltsin, adopted a vaguer proposal for the lower parliament to work on legislation for an executive presidency. But it set no

timescale.

The congress, which elected Yeltsin its leader by only a narrow margin 10 months ago and now gives only a tenuous power base, also rejected Yeltsin's call in a speech last week for a Soviet government of national confidence to save the country from economic and political chaos.

And it dismissed Yeltsin's plan, mooted last November at talks with Gorbachev, for a round table body involving liberal and some Communist groups.

Hardline Communists called the congress meeting, which began Thursday, aiming to block Yeltsin's efforts to wrest control from Soviet authorities or even to remove him as leader.

But Russian Communist Party leader Ivan Polozkov, while maintaining his opposition to Yeltsin, acknowledged Tuesday the time was "not right" for a change in the Russian leadership.

Meanwhile violence flared in the aftermath of Georgia's re-sounding independence vote, and one prominent politician said Tuesday he feared the Kremlin would send troops into the fractious southern republic.

Ethnic fighting broke out

shortly after the polls closed Sunday in one section of the fractious southern republic, where Georgians voted 98 per cent in favour of restoring their pre-World War I independence status.

On Monday, the national

legislature authorised President Mikhail Gorbachev to impose a state of emergency and deploy troops in an area of the republic torn by ethnic violence.

Gorbachev had not issued the order by Tuesday evening, and his spokesman said he would have no public comment on the referendum, which the Kremlin says was unconstitutional.

"We treat it as a sociological study," presidential spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko told a regular news briefing.

But Vakhtang Khmaladze, deputy chairman of Georgia's Electoral Commission, said Tuesday he feared the legislature's action was a response to the independence vote.

"This is a direct result of an exceptionally active participation of the population in the referendum and of the support by the overwhelming part of the population to the restoration of Georgian independence," he told the independent Infogeorgia News Agency.

He also is deputy chairman of the Democratic Choice for Georgia, a nationalist political organisation.

Khmaladze said a bomb hit a house and killed one man, an ethnic Georgian, when ethnic fighting erupted an hour after the polls closed in the town of Selo Nikoz, which borders the troubled South Ossetia region.

Fighting between the mainly

Muslim South Ossetians and Christian Georgians has already claimed more than 50 lives.

Slightly more than 90 per cent of Georgia's 3.6 million eligible voters participated in the referendum, Infogeorgia reported. Of those, 3,266,285 people or 98 per cent, voted for independence, it said.

The Georgian legislature took issue Tuesday with a resolution by Russian lawmakers last week demanding they recognise South Ossetia's claims to independence from Georgia.

The resolution is a "rude interference" in Georgia's internal affairs, TASS reported.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported Tuesday that Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who has yet to comment publicly on the referendum results, has sent a letter to Gorbachev saying unspecified "resolute measures" have been taken to stop the bloodshed in South Ossetia.

The letter, sent Monday, was a response to a telegram sent by Gorbachev last week following a sharp increase in violence in South Ossetia and the regional capital, Tskhinvali.

Gorbachev had proposed "immediate measures be taken to stop the bloodshed and actions by gunmen, to thwart their intentions to capture and destroy villages and to begin negotiations."

Novelist Graham Greene dies

VEVEY, Switzerland (R) — British novelist Graham Greene died Wednesday aged 86, his daughter Caroline Bourget told Reuters.

Bourget said Greene died of a blood disease at 11:35 a.m. (0935 GMT) at a hospital in the Lake Geneva city of Vevey.

"He's had a good life, you know," she tearfully told Reuters by telephone.

She declined to speak further and said the date and arrangements for the funeral had not yet been fixed.

Greene, widely regarded as one of the century's leading writers, wrote *The Power and The Glory*, *Our Man in Havana*, *The Third Man* and dozens of other novels.

He left his longtime home in Antibes, in the south of France, last year to seek medical treatment in Switzerland.

Born of middle-class parents in the town of Berkhamsted, northwest of London, Greene was still at school when he began to travel along unconventional paths.

His experiences included alcohol, drugs, psychoanalysis, a flirtation with communism and the British secret service.

All these, tempered by the Roman Catholicism he adopted while at Oxford University, provided material for some 60 literary works.

Greene began work as a sub-editor on the *Times* of London in 1926, leaving to become a full-time writer on the strength of a relatively successful first novel, *The Man Within*.

Eight more works before World War II enhanced a growing reputation and in 1940 he brought out *The Power and The Glory*.

Greene had more screen adaptations than any other modern author and was translated into 27 languages with sales exceeding 20 million.

Born on Oct. 2, 1904, Greene was the fourth of six children of a headmaster. His younger brother Hugh, who died in February 1987, was for 10 years director-general of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Croatia pulls forces out of Serb-dominated region

BELGRADE (AP) — The federal presidency met for the third day Wednesday to seek a resolution to deep ethnic and political disputes which flared in a bloody weekend clash.

Belgrade Radio said Croatia withdrew special police from the site of last weekend's ambush by ethnic Serbs in the Serb-dominated Krajina region of Croatia, in which two people were killed. The withdrawal lessened tensions.

The eight-man federal presidency met in an expanded session with the presidents of all six Yugoslav republics. The federal presidency and the republic leaders are separate.

On Tuesday, Serbia's parliament met in emergency session to discuss the status of ethnic Serbs in Krajina and their declaration Monday that they were joining Serbia.

The government of Croatia, Serbia's main rival, had denounced the declaration.

The Serbian parliament stopped short of endorsing annexation of Krajina, a move which almost certainly would lead to civil war between Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic, and Croatia, the second-largest.

Instead, it issued a statement that Croatia would be "exclusively responsible" for a worsening of the situation in Krajina, which makes up about 25 per cent of Croatia's territory. A large portion of the 500,000 Serbs in Croatia live there.

It called for "a peaceful and democratic settling of the crisis of the Yugoslav community."

Croatian Interior Minister Josip Boljkovac Tuesday ordered the withdrawal of heavily armed special police the Plitvice National

al Park, 100 kilometres south of Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

The police had moved into the park Sunday to drive out Serbs who had seized it two days earlier. They were ambushed, and the fighting left an officer and an ethnic Serb dead and 21 people injured.

The federal army had warned Croatia to move its special police out of Plitvice, and set a deadline Tuesday afternoon for the pull-out.

Boljkovac told reporters Tuesday that regular Croatian police were still in control of the park area.

"There is peace and order in Plitvice today, and this was the goal of the action of the Ministry of the Interior," he said.

The federal presidency, which formally controls the army, sent two of its members to Zagreb late Tuesday for talks with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman on the crisis.

Tudjman declared on television that the federal presidency should "condemn the illegal and anti-constitutional decision to create the so-called Serbian autonomous region of Krajina."

The longtime enmity among Croats and Serbs has worsened in recent months with the decision of Croatia and its ally, Slovenia, to seek near-independence within Yugoslavia or leave the federation entirely. The two westernmost of Yugoslavia's six republics have elected conservative governments.

Serbia's Marxists seek a strong central government based in Belgrade, the Serbian and national capital.

Serbia insists on continuing the Yugoslav Federation, but says it will seize Krajina

Demonstrators clash with police in Cameroon capital

YAOUNDE (R) — Thousands of street hawkers and students clashed with riot police in the centre of the Cameroon capital Yaounde Wednesday in escalating protest against President Paul Biya's one-party rule.

Witnesses saw police firing teargas grenades at the crowd and kicking and clubbing many demonstrators.

Protesters threw up street bar-

ricades, burning one bus and smashing windows in two others.

Witnesses said the hawkers, backed by students, wanted to stage a rally demanding freedom for political prisoners and a national conference to chart political reforms in the central African country.

Violence erupted when police allegedly drove a water cannon truck over the hawkers' goods.

Detained Ershad takes oath as MP

DHAKA (R) — Former Bangladesh President Hussein Mohammad Ershad proclaimed his innocence of corruption charges after being sworn in as a member of parliament Wednesday amid tight security.

He told reporters after a swearing-in ceremony that he was confident of victory in a presidential election expected by June.

Ershad, detained at a private villa since being ousted from power three months ago, was brought to parliament in a police jeep escorted by a convoy of security vehicles.

Wearing a blue blazer and maroon tie, the former president walked to the parliament's hall, where Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf administered the oath of office to Ershad and other members of parliament from his Jatiya Party.

Among the group was former Vice-President Moudud Ahmad and ex-Interior Minister Mahmudul Hasan, who were briefly allowed out of Dhaka Central jail for the swearing-in.

Absent were former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmad and two other ministers who were elected in the Feb. 27 elections but have remained in hiding.

Jatiya sources earlier said the three might turn up for the oath-taking and give themselves up to police.

Ershad, a general who seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup, resigned on Dec. 6 after a violent opposition campaign.

A special tribunal is now trying him for keeping illegal firearms and amassing wealth through corrupt means.

Ershad told reporters after the swearing-in that he had been falsely implicated.

"I am being falsely charged. People still love me and it has been reflected in the success of the Jatiya Party in the elections. What I want is a fair trial," he said.

Ershad will not be allowed to stand for president if found guilty of the charges against him.

Jatiya emerged the third largest group in parliament in the Feb. 27 elections with 35 of the 300 elected seats. Ershad himself won five seats in his northern home district, Rangpur.

He said he did not feel sorry for the deaths of nearly 100 people killed by police during attempts to force him from power.

There was a complete lawlessness and police tried to restore order," he said. Ershad added that he had quit power to show respect for democracy.

"There was no coup attempt and the army was loyal to me. But I decided to quit to show respect for democracy, pave the way for peaceful elections and also to see how the new incumbents run this country."

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is 12 seats short of an absolute majority in the new parliament, but the fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami, which has 18 seats, has promised backing.

Ershad presided over a meeting of Jatiya Party parliamentarians before being taken back to detention.

Initially Jatiya Party members of parliament said they would not attend the swearing-in unless Ershad was freed from detention.

However, acting Jatiya chief Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said Tuesday they had changed their minds because "our fight for democracy and fairness in politics will not be very effective if we stay out of parliament."

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Bomb blasts rock Athens neighbourhood

ATHENS (R) — A series of bomb explosions in an Athens neighbourhood Wednesday damaged houses and cars, including two vehicles belonging to foreign diplomats, but caused no injuries, Greek Radio said.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said residents ran out of their houses in panic after home-

made explosive devices went off in the Kolonaki area of the capital.

It said houses, shops and nine cars were seriously damaged. Two of the vehicles belonged to foreign diplomats and three had foreign licence plates, the radio said.

Leftist guerrillas have mounted an escalating rocket and bomb campaign in Athens since the

Gulf war began in January, hitting U.S., British and French targets.

Police said later they had defused another bomb found under a foreign diplomat's car. No group claimed responsibility for the blasts or the explosions Sunday which wrecked two central Athens offices of the U.S. bank Citibank.

Soviet compromise 'insufficient' for CFE accord

WASHINGTON (R) — A new compromise offered by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will not resolve a dispute blocking the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, a senior U.S. official said Tuesday.

Gorbachev, responding to a letter from President George Bush, "elaborated on the basic proposal he presented in Moscow (last month) but it still falls way short of what would be acceptable to the other nations and to the United States," he told Reuters in an interview.

"Each time we discuss it with them one detects nuances and one wonders what that means. But again they are working at the margins of the problem. The Soviets haven't stepped up to the big part of the problem," the official added, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Despite this, the official was optimistic that the dispute could be resolved sooner rather than later and the treaty salvaged, although he admitted rising Soviet political opposition to Gorbachev was a "great uncertainty."

Although signed amid much hoopla in Paris last Nov. 19 by 23 nations, the CFE pact mandating sweeping reductions in Soviet conventional forces and less severe cuts in U.S. and allied forces has not been ratified and implemented.

The most important involves Moscow's attempt to reclassify three army mechanised rifle divisions as coastal defence units in an effort to save 3,000-5,000 tanks, artillery and armoured personnel carriers from destruction under the CFE mandate.

U.S. reportedly developing rocket for Star Wars

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Defence Department is secretly developing a nuclear reactor-powered rocket that could lift huge weapons or satellites into space, newspapers reported Wednesday.

The rocket is years from completion, but researchers have already studied possible hazards associated with a sub-orbital test flight that could pass over the Antarctic and New Zealand, according to secret government documents obtained by the New York Times and the Washington Post.

The rocket is being developed under the Pentagon's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) programme, or Star Wars as it is popularly known, that is based on building in space an impenetrable defence against missile attacks.

The newspapers said they learned of the development from the Federation of American Scientists, a private group based in Washington that has opposed the Star Wars project.

The nuclear-powered rocket, scientists and the secret documents disclose, could offer far greater thrust than existing rockets, but could pose a greater

safety hazard in any accident, according to both papers.

Pentagon officials declined to comment on the programme.

U.S. officials have told Congress that nuclear reactors on future space vehicles would not be started until they had been orbited at a high enough altitude to prevent dangerous radioactive material from re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

Experts at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico, estimate the chance of a crash-landing in New Zealand at 4.5 out of 10,000.

Ground tests associated with the reactor have been set for a remote part of a government nuclear test site in Nevada. Researchers have tested fuel elements for a prototype reactor.

The Times said the reactor would be different from power packs used in deeper space probes launched by the U.S. Space agency. Unlike the NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) probes, which rely on a battery-like device that uses natural radioactive decay, this rocket would have a true reactor that splits atoms.

Britain grilled on civil rights by U.N. committee

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Britain was asked point-blank if its policies are "keeping blacks waiting in the wings," as its representatives faced a second day of questioning by a United Nations Committee on Civil Rights.

John Halliday, deputy under-secretary of state at the Home Office and Britain's chief representative at the three-day hearing, admitted the existence of prejudice. But he said the government was taking steps to combat it, especially in housing, employment and service in public facilities.

Britain's policy towards blacks was raised during a session that also touched on the treatment of suspected terrorists in Northern Ireland and plans for securing human rights safeguards for Hong Kong once the territory reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

The nations, such as Britain, that have signed the 53-article International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights periodically have their human rights records reviewed.

The committee has no formal powers, but human rights advocates argue that a nation's appearance before the committee puts its record under public scrutiny.

Hong Kong Solicitor General Frank Stock told the committee that in the colony's basic law, written to replace the colonial letters patent under which Hong Kong now is being ruled, "no

Hong Kong law shall contravene" the covenant.

Human rights advocates are concerned that Hong Kong laws enacted in 1967 during a period of civil disturbance, dealing with closed court trials and censorship of mail, could be implemented in the post-1997 world.

But assistant Hong Kong Solicitor General Philip Dykes argued that the laws, which he said had been dormant for years, would be examined.

"The government will undertake a review of the ordinances (to make sure) they conform to the bill of rights," he said.

A 24-article draft bill of rights for Hong Kong is scheduled to be enacted later this year. However, a review does not ensure that the laws in question would be abolished, he told Reuters.

The Soviet Union's representative noted the "need to fight terrorism" but said he was still concerned about how emergency powers are invoked in Northern Ireland.

"I am not satisfied with the explanation given by the (British) delegation. I think there can be ways out of the (terrorism) situation and it is up to the state to find them," Rein Avovitch Mylerson of the Soviet Union said in the open hearing.

Halliday argued that "the presumption of innocence remains in Northern Ireland ... no one is obligated to make a statement incriminating oneself."

Los Angeles mayor asks police chief to resign

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Mayor Tom Bradley has asked embattled police chief Daryl Gates to resign over the videotaped beating of a black motorist by several white officers, but the chief refused.

At a press conference after a meeting between the mayor and Gates, Bradley said, "I have asked (Gates) to show the uncommon courage to retire for the good of the (Los Angeles Police Department) and the welfare of all of Los Angeles."

Bradley said that at their meeting, Gates responded to the resignation call by saying: "Mayor, I think you're wrong, and I will not resign."

Since the March 3 beating of Rodney King, 25, Bradley, who is black, has hinted that Gates should resign but had said it was up to the chief, Gates is white.

On Tuesday Bradley said he was tired of waiting.

"Since I legally cannot remove the chief, I have waited patiently for him to see that by remaining on the job he is hurting the men and women of the police department he loves."

"I have reluctantly concluded I can no longer wait for Daryl Gates to do what is best for the LAPD ... (and) all of Los

Angeles. That is why, today, I called upon Daryl Gates to resign," he said.

The mayor repeated his call in his statement to the press.

"When the public begins to lose confidence in the chief and in the police department, the chief has only one choice. He must step aside," Bradley said.

The 64-year-old police chief has steadfastly refused to step down over the beating, calling it an "aberration."

After Bradley's statement, Gates repeated his intention to stay on to provide "leadership out of this situation."

"I don't believe that 8,300 police officers will follow the mayor anywhere," he said.

In the two-minute videotape taken by an amateur, the officers, wielding batons, are seen hitting King 56 times and kicking and stomping on him. The tape was shown on television worldwide and led to a cry for Gates's resignation.

Four officers have been charged with assault and using excessive force. Twelve others who were present but did nothing to stop it are being investigated.

King, who was seriously injured in the beating, is suing the city of Los Angeles for \$85 mil-

lion.

Bradley said racist jokes made by the officers through car-to-car computers after the beating "clearly put aside any thought that this might have been an aberration."

In an unrelated case, the family of a black man alleged to have been beaten to death by Los Angeles Police in 1985 reached a settlement with Los Angeles County. Legal experts said they believed it to be in the multimillion-dollar range, but the amount was not disclosed by either side.

Meanwhile 11 FBI supervisors and agents face possible disciplinary action in the racial harassment of a black agent who is demanding that the bureau release its internal report on the episode.

A special task force that looked into allegations by Donald Rochon recommended changes in bureau operations so "this unfortunate case" isn't repeated, the FBI said in a letter Tuesday to Rochon's attorney. It didn't elaborate on the changes.

Rochon said white colleagues threatened and intimidated him when he worked in the bureau's Chicago office in the 1980s and that bureau supervisors covered

up the evidence.

He sued the FBI and settled last August, agreeing to full salary and pension benefits in a deal that could be worth more than \$1 million.

The task force referred five separate matters to FBI Director William Sessions for possible disciplinary action, the bureau said in the letter to Rochon's lawyer, David Kairys.

Based on the task force's findings, "the FBI will consider the actions of 11 employees to determine if discipline is warranted," the bureau said in a statement.

Those under scrutiny include agents and bureau supervisors, said an FBI source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The bureau refused to say whether any of the 11 works at FBI headquarters in Washington.

If Sessions decides to take action, there could be reprimands, suspensions or firings.

Paul Philip, the FBI's highest-ranking black field agent, led the task force investigation. Rochon called on Philip's superiors to release the report.

"This is a matter of race harassment at the agency that enforces our civil rights laws," said Kairys, a law professor at Temple University.



UFOs shock Venezuelan city

MARACAIBO, Venezuela (R) — Five glowing unidentified flying objects passed over a western Venezuelan city briefly Tuesday, prompting a wave of calls to a local radio station, officials told Reuters. The glowing objects were spotted at about 6:30 a.m. (1030 GMT), going north to south over the oil-producing city of Maracaibo, 700 kilometres west of the capital of Caracas, leaving a trail of smoke in their wake.

Jeanne Moreau awarded Legion of Honour

PARIS (R) — French stage and screen actress Jeanne Moreau was made an officer in the Legion of Honour in an Easter weekend honours list. Moreau, 63, began her career in the late 1940s and acted under such leading film directors as Joseph Losey, Elia Kazan, Michelangelo Antonioni and Luis Bunuel. She achieved world fame in Francois Truffaut's *Jules Et Jim* in 1961.

3,500-year-old mummy found under house in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — A farmer in Luxor, renovating his house, dug up the mummy of a Pharaonic nobleman buried some 3,500 years ago, newspapers have reported. The man was arrested after police discovered he had taken artifacts from the coffin to sell to antiquities dealers. It is a criminal offence in Egypt to sell or buy Pharaonic relics. The mummy had been buried with some royal seals decorated with hieroglyphics, police were reported as saying. Luxor is the site of some of Egypt's most magnificent Pharaonic temples and tombs, including that of King Tutankhamen.

Cicciolina to quit parliament